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40p

Japanese and Middle East diplomats upset by mystery absence of Russian leader

Missing Yeltsin shuns world stage

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY
IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin yesterday cancelled all public engagements and disappeared from Moscow, just as Russia was about to take the world stage as host of the Middle East peace conference.

Foreign ministers from America, Japan and 15 other countries arrived yesterday for Moscow's first big international occasion since the demise of the Soviet Union, but Mr Yeltsin will not be there to preside over the official opening today.

He will instead make his debut as a world statesman on Friday when he addresses a special meet-

ing of the United Nations Security Council. Officials insisted that the Russian leader was in perfectly good health and that he would go ahead with a visit to London to see John Major on Thursday. He would also go to Canada on his way home from New York.

Mr Yeltsin's extraordinary absence from the Middle East conference suggests either that he has been ordered to rest after the tensions of last week's budget debate or that his advisers believed it vital for him to spend more time preparing for the security council meeting. Yuli Vorontsov, the Russian ambassador to the UN, has been appointed a foreign affairs adviser to Mr Yeltsin and it is possible that he is giving the Russian leader a crash course on UN culture and international diplomacy in an at-

tempt to avoid the gaffes that have dogged him abroad.

However, coming on top of the cancellation of a planned meeting with the chairman of the International Olympic Committee 10 days ago, Mr Yeltsin's disappearance on the eve of what he had acknowledged to be an important diplomatic occasion can only add to the impression of unreliability that persists in some minds. One of the victims of yesterday's cancelled meetings was Michio Watanabe, the Japanese foreign minister, and his spokesman last night made clear his displeasure, albeit in diplomatic language.

Mr Watanabe had "regretted" that the meeting could not go ahead and declined an invitation to see Mr Yeltsin tomorrow because he had to return home. The spokes-

man added: "The foreign minister expressed the wish that Mr Yeltsin should visit Japan even before the Group of Seven summit in July. Otherwise, people might gain the impression that Mr Yeltsin intends to give less attention to Asia and the Far East." Mr Yeltsin can ill afford to offend Japan, which continues to link the future of the disputed Kurile Islands to large-scale aid and investment in Russia.

Mr Yeltsin was also due to meet James Baker, the American Secretary of State, to discuss nuclear arms cuts, but it was not clear last night whether the informal talks would go ahead during Mr Baker's stay in Moscow for the Middle East conference.

Some of Mr Yeltsin's diplomatic difficulties stem from his lamentable public relations operation; oth-

ers may be caused by in-fighting in merged Soviet and Russian departments including the foreign ministry. Last week, parts of an internal document leaked to *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* put some of Mr Yeltsin's problems down to sabotage within the administration as old institutions, including the Communist party and the KGB, mounted their last stand against the new order.

Mr Yeltsin himself told Juan Antonio Samaranch, the Olympic chairman, at the weekend that their earlier scheduled meeting had been postponed because of a misunderstanding and that those responsible had been dismissed. When the original meeting was put off, it was widely reported that Mr Yeltsin had suffered a recurrence of his heart problems.

Yesterday, his spokesman, Pavel

Voshchanov, moved swiftly to prevent a resurgence of such speculation, saying the president was "absolutely healthy and in excellent shape". He offered no explanation of Mr Yeltsin's disappearance, possibly to his home city of Yekaterinburg, other than to say that "circumstances arose which required his departure from Moscow".

The Japanese foreign minister was reportedly told by his Russian counterpart that their meeting had been cancelled "due to domestic issues, including economic problems, preparations for the UN Security Council meeting and preparations for other contingencies".

Shadow on talks, page 6
Georgia port pounded, page 10
Being Boris, page 12

Tories act to end poll tax doubts

BY ROBIN OAKLEY AND DOUGLAS BROOM

THE government yesterday moved to end confusion over the use of computer evidence in courts for the non-payment of poll tax. Pressure for action built up as Hendon magistrates in north London adjourned 4,500 community charge cases using printout evidence, the latest in a series of such cases.

Ministers' moves brought a claim from Bryan Gould, Labour's environment spokesman, that the government was panicking over the poll tax and a prediction of a

Tory stratagem to delay the sending out of poll tax bills until after the election.

Michael Portillo, the local government minister, denied Labour claims that the average poll tax bill would be nearer £300 than the £257 officially predicted, but conceded that the average was likely to be £15 higher than at first thought.

Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, said yesterday that the local government finance bill now before the Lords would be amended "making provisions which will put beyond any doubt that authorities may present computer evidence in support of applications for liability orders in magistrates courts". These would cover the community charge, the non-domestic rate and, in future, the council tax.

Mr Heseltine has already given councils an extension from two years to six in pursuing poll tax defaulters, against whom there are more than ten million summonses outstanding.

Yesterday's announcement came after the Home Office, the Lord Chancellor's department and the environment department had played pass the parcel with the problem. In the end the initiative has come from Mr Heseltine, whose department already had a bill before the Commons which could be amended.

Mr Gould said the government's action would leave the poll tax mess to be sorted out after the election. "The Local Government Finance Act will not receive royal assent until well into March. In the meantime the poll tax remains legally unenforceable. A month's delay will mean higher bills for next year." The government should have put through the changes in the Commons in a single day, with Labour's co-operation.

More than 10,000 court cases have been halted since magistrates in London and Suffolk ruled that computer records could not be used to prove non-payment.

Parliament, page 5

BR 'much to be done'

British Rail faces the same challenges whether privatised or not, Sir Bob Reid, chairman, said yesterday. He admitted that "much remains to be done". "We know our customers' expectations rise faster than our performance. Even in a recession, people are looking for quality as well as price competitiveness." Page 19

Actress dies

Gwen Ffrangcon-Davies, the classical actress, died yesterday at home, two days after her 101st birthday. She was made a Dame in the last Birthday Honours. Page 15

Israel warns

Israel says any change in the Palestinian team for today's Moscow talks could put the Middle East peace process in jeopardy. Page 6

Deficit lower

Britain's trade deficit for 1991 was £5.8 billion, lowest for five years. The 1990 deficit was £15.2 billion. Page 17

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Charter gets the kiss of life

BY ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN Major tried yesterday to breathe new life into the citizen's charter as the government announced a new "charter mark" to be awarded to public organisations for excellent service.

Ministers concede that the charter has not gripped public attention as they had hoped, but argue that the first six months of a ten-year plan has required setting up mechanisms to measure performance. Labour accused the government of spending public money on boosting the Tory election campaign.

Yesterday Mr Major confirmed that the next Tory

government would legislate to give the public powers to challenge unlawful strikes in the public sector as well as pressing on with the privatisation of British Rail and British Coal. The Post Office monopoly would be restricted and the public would be involved in monitoring bodies to examine the police and social services.

A new travellers' charter is to force British Rail to pay better compensation for excessive delays. A telephone helpline, the "charline", will aid those finding themselves faced by a wall of bureaucracy and there will be an enquiry

into why it takes so long for patients to see specialists to whom they have been referred by GPs.

A new benefits charter launched yesterday to improve the benefit payment offices says that income support claims should be cleared in an average of four working days and 60 per cent of family credit claims should be settled in 13 working days. Customer services managers at each office will handle complaints within seven working days.

Parliament, page 5

Leading article, page 13



Tyson on trial

Mike Tyson, the former world heavyweight champion, was greeted with cheers from supporters when he went to court in Indianapolis yesterday to face a charge of rape brought by an entrant in last year's Miss Black America contest (above). The first day of jury selection took on racial overtones when the defence claimed that the jury would not have enough blacks (Charles Bremner writes).

Tyson, who at 25 has already created one of boxing's most spectacular careers, faces up to 63 years in prison if convicted. The racial element hangs heavy over the trial, even though he is accused of raping a black teenager.

Iron Mike's fight, page 8

Implants cleared

THE government's Chief Medical Officer, Dr Kenneth Calman, has told doctors and public health administrators that there is no reason to stop silicone breast implants in Britain, in spite of the recent decision by the American Food and Drug Administration to suspend implant operations for 45 days pending a safety review (Jeremy Laurence writes).

"I understand the concerns and anxiety felt by women over silicone gel breast implants," he writes. "However, there is no reason for advising a general change in this surgical practice in the UK."

Services, said that as the responsible service provider, the company complied with the code issued by Icstis, the watchdog body which roots out premium rate call abuse. Icstis said that "Dave Parry" does not infringe the rules because of the price warning given to the caller. Last year Icstis withdrew 500 of the estimated 17,000 services.

Vodafone said last night: "If there is a complaint, it should be made to Icstis and if they rule against the service then we would of course abide by that ruling."

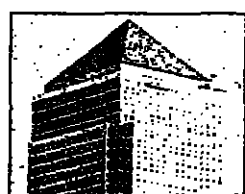
LIFE & TIMES

Design, the arts, entertainment, the law and property all get expanded coverage in today's Life & Times section. The TV and radio guide is on the back of the section.

Life & Times also features Law Times, carrying an interview with Barbara Mills, head of the Serious Fraud Office, the Law Report and Times personal column.

Plus...

TOPPING OUT



Eyesore? No, sir: a slice of Manhattan in London. Marcus Binney salutes Canary Wharf

POPPING IN



Why is there always something there on the radio to remind us of Sandie Shaw and other '60s stars?

OPTING OUT



Why new men may be in at the birth but are often pushed out of fatherhood



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Labour reveals Heseltine's cabinet fight to win £900m EC aid



Brown: Major pursuing vendetta with miners

By NICHOLAS WOOD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE cabinet rift over Brussels' threat to block £900 million of aid to Britain's poorest regions was highlighted yesterday by the leak of Whitehall papers contesting strongly the approach adopted by the prime minister.

They show that John Major has overridden civil service advice that "maintaining the status quo is no longer a viable option".

Labour seized on two documents from Michael Heseltine's environment department to accuse John Major of misleading the public about the reasons for the government's stance and of pursuing a vendetta against jobless miners for ideological reasons.

Gordon Brown, the shadow trade secretary, appealed to Mr Major to start negotiating sensibly about the money, which is intended to help local authorities revive blighted areas through retraining programmes, reclaiming derelict land and grants to small businesses. "It has now become a matter of dogma, a battle between the government and the European Commission: one that was started by the anti-Europeans in the DTI and the Treasury, one that is being continued by the prime minister," Mr Brown said.

The dispute, which has led to a delay of several months in the release of £115 million of EC funds for mining areas and threatens a total loss of £900 million in regional aid from Brussels, stems

from a seemingly arcane argument over Treasury book-keeping. Bruce Millan, the EC commissioner for regional affairs, wants Britain to allocate the cash directly to the affected areas to show that it is in addition to domestic regional grants. The government maintains that the money should be routed through the Treasury and be counted as part of the public expenditure planning totals. Although it insists that levels of grant are swollen by the Brussels contribution — and so conform to the "additionality rule" — its accounting procedures do not readily lend themselves to proving the point.

The Treasury is also concerned that if it conceded the argument, it would lose control over a large amount of public spending. Critics say that the present arrangements enable ministers to disguise the meagre contribution they make to regional development and to pass off EC funds as their own.

Faced with Labour protests in the Commons, John Wakeham, the energy secretary, blamed Brussels for the hold-up.

Mr Brown said the documents, a 15-page paper drawn up by environment department officials plus an annex, demolished the prime minister's claims that the commission's objections are unfounded. "The 'restricted' document explodes one by one the prime minister's claims that spending is 'additional' in the regions, that Britain obeys the rules, that all other countries do the same and that the commission has

no case," Mr Brown told a Westminster press conference at which he handed out the leaked material. The papers underline Mr Heseltine's behind-the-scenes efforts to persuade Mr Major, the Treasury and Peter Lilley, the trade secretary, to bow to Brussels' demands.

The main document says: "The weakness of the Treasury argument is that there is no visible evidence that the expenditure is necessarily higher than it otherwise would be... The commission realises this and are suspicious largely, we believe, because UK practice does not make transparent or capable of proof the distribution of additional resources."

The new leak is the second in six weeks from the environment department.

Before Christmas, Labour released a confidential cabinet memorandum from Mr Heseltine warning his colleagues that the government's stance over the funds was "no longer tenable". This memorandum was sent in July and it is understood that the latest papers are Mr Heseltine's supporting evidence in his unsuccessful battle with his colleagues.

Downing Street sources said the prime minister believed that the money should be given to Britain and "conditioned against the belief that the £900 million would be lost. They said the problem was part of wider negotiations over EC finances that Britain intended to push ahead with when it took over the presidency in the second half of the year.

Cheaper milk signalled by monopoly decision

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE Milk Marketing Board yesterday agreed to relinquish its monopoly over the buying and selling of milk and said it was ready to discuss becoming a voluntary co-operative. The move could lead to cheaper milk.

Bob Steven, the chairman, said that the 59-year-old institution would have preferred to continue with a few modifications but accepted that in the present political and regulatory environment the scheme's existence was threatened. "The board has therefore decided to discuss with the Dairy Trade Federation and the government the form of dairy farmer's co-operative it would wish to become if the present statutory milk marketing scheme were to end."

The board proposed that all

30,000 dairy farmers in England and Wales should be entitled to join the co-operative which would buy all the milk produced by its members. Farmers would, however, be free to operate outside the co-operative and sell direct to customers.

"Members of the co-operative would continue to enjoy the security which comes from the regular [monthly] milk cheque. The price paid for the milk would be on the principle of a pooled basis across all members of the co-operative," the board said.

In a crucial departure from previous proposals, the board agreed to give up direct control of Dairy Crest, a wholly-owned subsidiary with a 25 per cent share of the dairy products market. Instead, it proposed that Dairy Crest should become a separate company in which dairy farmers would own shares and receive dividends. That would "increase Dairy Crest's commercial freedom and put it on an equal footing with other dairy companies".

Brian Smith, president of the Dairy Trade Federation, which represents 300 dairies, creameries and milk delivery companies, said that the Dairy Crest proposals were a major step forward. He said, however, that the federation would still prefer to see several smaller regional producers' co-operatives rather than one national organisation.

The future of the board has been under discussion for two years but pressure for change intensified at the end of last year when Brussels took the government to the European Court for allegedly allowing the board to abuse its monopoly powers.

The proposals will have to be approved by a referendum of dairy farmers. Bill Madders, dairy committee chairman of the National Farmers' Union, said the union believed that dairy farmers would welcome the proposals.

Home sale reforms delayed

By FRANCES GIBBS
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A CENTRAL plank of the government's reforms of legal services, which was aimed at opening up the conveyancing market to banks and building societies, is at risk of being shelved until the housing market picks up.

Although the legislation is on the statute book it seems likely that the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, will delay the introduction of regulations to open up the conveyancing market because of lack of demand among financial institutions.

Lord Mackay has written to banks and building societies to assess the likely level of demand for the reforms "to allow him to assess whether it is worthwhile proceeding with the scheme at the present time". Responses must be in by the end of January.

Yesterday the department said that no decision had been taken not to proceed with the regulations. However, an official agreed that there was always an option not to proceed, saying: "We shall have to wait to see what the outcome of the show of hands is."

The regulation is intended to enable financial institutions to provide conveyancing services to their borrowers, probably as a service offered with mortgage, and possibly estate agency, services. A delay in implementation would be a serious blow to the institutions, though they acknowledge that taking on conveyancing in the present climate is a low priority.

Suing survivors, L&T, page 9

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There is never a time in caring, when no more can be given, no more can be learned, no more can be said. Thank you for listening, and for sharing so often the joy of your giving with the gravely ill patients in our care.

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Crash scene: wreckage strewn across the London-bound carriageway of the A13 at West Thurrock in Essex yesterday after an accident in which four people died.

A vehicle crossed the central reservation just after 7.30am and smashed into two others travelling in the opposite direction (Bill Frost writes). A fourth car crashed into the debris. One of the victims was thrown from one car on to the bonnet of another and firemen had to cut the bodies of three others from the wreckage.

The dead were believed to have

been travelling in a van and a BMW. The van was thought to have crossed the reservation through a 40ft gap in the safety barrier used by emergency services. Police are not disclosing the victims' names until next of kin have been informed.

Inspector Steve Nesting said: "We believe the vehicles were travelling at high speed — the A13 is a very busy road. The surface was damp but it is too early to say what caused the accident."

The Essex ambulance service said that crews were quickly on the scene. "We called a helicopter in

and an emergency medical team," a spokesman said. "There were five casualties, all male. Four were certified dead at the scene by a doctor from the helicopter. The fifth was 'walking wounded' and was taken to Basildon hospital." The crash caused long traffic jams in both directions and the road was closed for a time.

On the M40 in Oxfordshire, one man was killed and nine others injured in fog in a 12-vehicle pile up. The accident closed the northbound carriageway between junctions eight and nine. On the M6 near

Walsall, one man died and 11 people were injured after a 30-vehicle accident in thick, patchy fog. Police said that the dead man was trapped in his car which had become sandwiched between two lorries on Sunday night.

In Northern Ireland, six people died on the roads within 24 hours. Police and motoring organisations had warned drivers that fog and ice were making conditions treacherous. In the Irish republic, three elderly people — a woman and two men — died in a head-on crash at Askaton, Co. Limerick.

Clarke opts for Western tradition in music

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH Clarke yesterday took on the musical establishment and the multicultural lobby with his final proposals for the national curriculum in music and art.

The education secretary tried to placate leading musicians, who have claimed that the national curriculum would kill young people's interest in music by placing too much emphasis on the appreciation of Western classics.

However, after announcing that pupils between five and 14 would spend two thirds of their music lessons playing and composing, he condemned the government's critics. He singled out Simon

Rattle, director of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, who has led a campaign for a more practical and multi-cultural curriculum. Mr Rattle has described the proposals of the National Curriculum Council as "terribly dangerous" but Mr Clarke said yesterday: "I do not believe Simon Rattle has read a word of it."

The education secretary adopted the council's view, against that of the government's specialist advisers, that the music curriculum should be simplified and that more emphasis be given to Western classics. He accepted that music and art should be

more practically based than other subjects, but that children should be introduced to composers such as Mozart and Stravinsky as part of an integrated approach.

The two subjects would allow the study of other cultures, but it would be patronising to those from other backgrounds to assume that they could not appreciate Western works. "I hope we are not going to be a country which does not have the confidence to introduce children to our own culture."

Mr Clarke also acted to ensure that pupils learnt to draw and paint in most art lessons. The changes will now

go on for a last consultation before the final orders go before Parliament in March. They will be introduced in schools from September.

The Association of British Orchestras said that the changes proposed by Mr Clarke went a long way towards meeting the concerns of professional musicians. But Libby MacNamara, the director, said she was disappointed that the "richness and colour" of the range of musical styles available to children in a multi-cultural society was not reflected.

Simon Mundy, of the National Campaign for the Arts, said Mr Clarke deserved just

three marks out of ten. He had rejected expert advice and not recognised that "the Western tradition of music can only be strengthened by children knowing what goes on in the rest of the world."

□ The government's keenest supporters among teachers yesterday withdrew their support from the national curriculum beyond the age of 14. The Professional Association of Teachers said that the curriculum was unsuitable for some pupils and acted as a strait-jacket. Problems of curriculum overload and imbalance were still there. "It is time somebody said this simply will not work."

MPs to meet informally as poll rejects role for Sinn Fein

Shadow of election halts Ulster talks

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PETER Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, conceded defeat yesterday in his efforts to revive before the election talks on the political future of the province.

After a meeting at Westminster, Mr Brooke, his security minister Brian Mawhinney and leaders of the four main parties in Northern Ireland admitted that there was no chance of substantive talks resuming before the election.

However, Mr Brooke sought to prevent a political vacuum by emphasising that low-level contacts and briefings would take place in the next few months. Those will focus on financial and administrative arrangements in Northern Ireland.

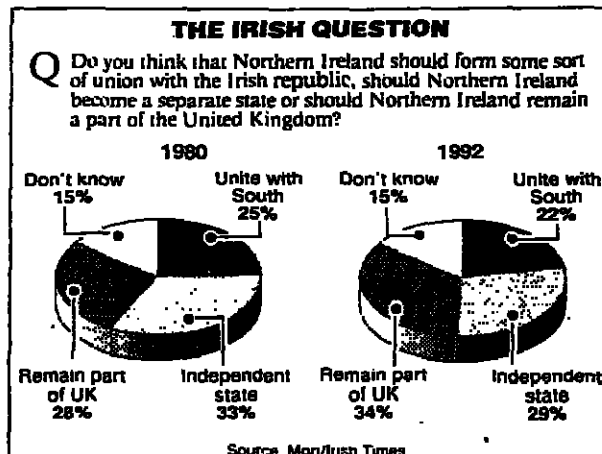
Although James Molyneux and Ian Paisley, the Unionist leaders, with John Hume, the SDLP leader, and John Alderdice, of the Alliance, failed to agree the basis for resumed talks before polling day, they refrained from blaming each other for the impasse. The talks foundered mainly on the Unionist MPs' belief that no agreement should be binding in the event of a Labour government, whereas the SDLP and Alliance wanted negotiations

to remain unaffected by the election.

A joint statement from ministers and MPs after the meeting said: "They reassessed their support for a process of talks based on the statement of March 26, 1991. However, they concluded with regret that it was not possible in present circumstances to proceed to launch fresh substantive talks on the lines envisaged."

The party leaders agreed to meet to discuss "matters of common concern" in the run-up to the election. "They also agreed to respond to an invitation to field party teams to take part for information, in factual briefings." They hoped that the informal initiatives would contribute to the growth of mutual trust and confidence within the community.

Kevin McNamara, shadow Northern Ireland secretary, committed a Labour government to reconvening the talks on the same basis agreed between the main parties. Mr McNamara regretted the breakdown of talks but saw some hope in the agreement to continue informal briefings with ministers in the run-up to the election.



British voters do not support united Ireland

By DAVID LIPSEY

THE IRA has failed to bomb the British into supporting a united Ireland, according to a Mori poll carried out for the Irish Times. Only one voter in four with an opinion on the matter supports the unification of Ireland, rather than favoured it in 1980. Three quarters of those polled agree that Sinn Fein should be excluded from talks on Northern Ireland's future unless it first renounces violence.

The popular stereotype of the green-tinted Irishman in Britain ready to rally to the republican cause is refuted by the poll. Only a third of the

Irish people in Britain are scarcely more likely to raise Northern Ireland an important question than voters generally: just 38 per cent regard it as important, compared with 34 per cent of all voters. Mori interviewed a representative sample of 1,956 adults between January 17

Travel agents ban double discounts

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

A DISPUTE broke out last night between two of Britain's biggest High Street travel agents over the amount of discount offered to holidaymakers.

Lunn Poly, Britain's biggest travel agency chain, ordered all its 510 shops to remove from their shelves all brochures from seven tour operators whose holidays had been sold at double the normal discount through the rival Pickfords chain on Saturday.

Immediately Pickfords, which is the third biggest and has 325 shops, threatened to take Lunn Poly to court. "This is pure intimidation," Pickfords' marketing director Kevin Welch said. "We have written to Lunn Poly asking them to drop the action and put the brochures back on the shelves by Tuesday or we will pursue the matter through both the criminal and the civil courts."

Lunn Poly was last night unrepentant. "This is a normal retail practice which has not been seen in the travel industry before," a spokesman said. "We have spent £8 million on television advertising telling people that they can get a holiday — any holiday — at a

discount through us. If some tour operators want to deal with someone else and arrange an even bigger discount that is up to them, but we have the right to then tell them that we no longer wish to deal with them."

The dispute is the latest to hit an industry affected by a bout of jitters in recent weeks. Travel agents fear that the election could affect sales of the £1 million holiday now on offer.

Both Lunn Poly and Pickfords offered up to £150 off holidays booked through them and saw their market share rise as a result. Then Pickfords decided that was not enough and for one day only offered double that amount after persuading seven tour operators to help them meet the cost of the promotion.

Lunn Poly then decided to call a halt and remove the brochures. Because Lunn Poly is by far the biggest travel agency chain it is expected that some of the tour operators — The Club, French Line, Jetset, Meon, Novamara, Seaton Trek and Sunair — will have to agree to drop their arrangement with Pickfords or risk losing up to 30 per cent of their customers.

Fluke polio claims a new victim

A second man has contracted polio after changing the nappy of a baby who had been vaccinated against the disease.

The man, a father aged 30 from Bournemouth who has not been named, is partly paralysed. He caught the disease after contact with his baby's soiled nappy in what doctors say is a highly improbable form of infection.

Another man, aged 48, has been treated at Southampton General Hospital since suffering paralysis last November in a similar incident. He is said to be satisfactory.

The latest victim was said to be stable at the Royal Bournemouth Hospital. Neither man had been vaccinated against polio.

Dr Keir Khuramane said: "The chances of contracting polio like this are extremely slight indeed — about three million to one. The odds of it happening twice within a few weeks, and only about 30 miles apart, are impossible to calculate."

"The two cases are in no way connected, and in fact two different strains of the disease are involved."

Rape victim gives birth

A nine-months pregnant woman who was raped in Belfast at the weekend has given birth to a girl. The woman, aged 29, and her child are well, the city's Eastern Health Board said yesterday.

The woman was raped in the Beechmount area of West Belfast early on Saturday. Detectives questioning people in connection with the rape have praised the public for their help. Det Insp Tim McGovern said: "In 20 years' police experience, it is one of the worst cases I have come across. The feeling of local people is one of revulsion."

Haughey vows to be neutral

Charles Haughey, the Irish prime minister who is expected to resign within ten days, denied yesterday that he was attempting to influence the outcome of the race to succeed him. He made a brief statement which was his first to acknowledge his imminent departure from office in the wake of fresh allegations about a telephone-tapping scandal in 1982. He said that he was taking a neutral position.

The Fianna Fáil parliamentary party meets on Thursday after tomorrow's budget. That meeting is considered a likely opportunity for Mr Haughey to announce his resignation.

Biology branch 'endangered'

Britain is neglecting a basic but unglamorous branch of biology vital to international efforts to protect endangered species, a House of Lords committee says in a report to be published today.

Systematic biology — the science of naming and classifying living organisms — is itself endangered, the Select Committee on Science and Technology says after an investigation prompted by cuts at the Natural History Museum. The committee wants the science backed by a research fund of £1 million a year for five years.

Smoking out

The government last night came under renewed pressure from Ash, the anti-smoking pressure group, to ban tobacco advertising. William Waldegrave, the health secretary, is expected to announce a drive aimed at reducing the number of adult smokers by about 20 per cent by the year 2000 but it is believed the government is not committed to back an EC call to ban the advertising of cigarettes in newspapers and magazines.

سكوت في ايد

EC aid

Sacked solicitor says partners treated her like a criminal

BY PETER VICTOR

A SOLICITOR, who said that she was publicly humiliated after being dismissed, yesterday sued her former employers for slander, damages. Mr Justice Drake was told during a High Court hearing that Argles & Court, a Kent based legal firm, behaved like "pimps" to Laura Watson.

Robin de Wilde, her counsel, said that she was frogmarched off the premises in Maidstone by an escort of partners who accompanied her a quarter of a mile to where her company car was parked and waited while she handed over the keys.

Mrs Watson, aged 39, of St Mary's, Platt, Kent, had been with the firm for over two years and was a salaried partner when she was summarily dismissed in November 1989. Mr de Wilde said she was "publicly and brutally humiliated" in front of colleagues and her own staff.

He said Mrs Watson's dismissal followed a partnership dispute which began when



Watson: "I was trying desperately not to cry"

Trevor Carney, a senior partner, resigned or, as some thought, was effectively dismissed. His resignation was followed by the departure of ten of the remaining 22 partners, together with their assistants and staff.

Mrs Watson felt she was sacked because she supported Mr Carney. Argles & Court denies slander, by words or conduct, and said its actions were justified and correct in the circumstances. The firm claims Mrs Watson demoralised other members of the partnership and attempted to seduce others to leave with her. Her time keeping was poor and there were occasions when she was out of the office when she should not have been.

Mrs Watson wept as she told the jury of the day she was dismissed. When she was told to collect her personal belongings and leave immediately, she thought it would be a question of leaving in a dignified fashion. But people came in and out of her office to supervise her and she ended up throwing things into a dozen plastic carrier bags. "I thought they wanted me to hurry up and get out," she said. When she said that she wanted to say goodbye to a colleague, she was told she could do that outside the office.

"I was trying desperately not to cry," she said. "I wanted to leave with some kind of dignity. I felt utterly humiliated. I thought they were treating me as though I was some kind of criminal. I don't think I deserved it."

Helped by three colleagues, and escorted by two partners and the personnel manager, it took her ten minutes to walk to her company car. She was met at the car park by her husband Tony, who thought the whole business was "quite disgusting". He shielded her when she broke down so the partners would not see how they had upset her.

Mr de Wilde said the jury might think that the partners who dismissed Mrs Watson acted out of pure vindictiveness and spite. "This case is about how we treat our fellow human beings," he said. The way Mrs Watson was treated might give people the impression that she had been guilty of some dreadful misconduct. But she had never been reported to the Law Society or the police for misconduct of any kind. In fact, the firm offered to provide her with a reference after her dismissal.

She worked long days, often worked weekends and rarely had lunch unless it was for business. Even if she got round to booking a holiday she did not always take it and was owed nearly five weeks when she left. "I very much gave it my best," she said.

In January 1990 she formed a new practice, Carney Watson, with Mr Carney. Mrs Watson said that she had never attempted to get people to leave Argles & Court with her. Mr de Wilde said that Mrs Watson was not suing because her feelings were hurt, but because a reputation was elusive and, once lost, was difficult to recapture.

The court hearing is expected to last five days. The case continues today.

Epileptic driver killed cyclist

AN EPILEPTIC motorist who ignored his doctor's orders not to drive and killed a cyclist and injured two others while having a fit was yesterday jailed for nine months and banned from driving for life.

Kevin Cosgrove, aged 29, had already had one seizure behind the wheel before he drove into three cyclists at 70mph in a 30mph zone, Teeside crown court was told.

Ian Thomas, aged 43, of Guisborough, Cleveland, his friend Helen Laviolette, aged 41, and his son Stephen, aged 18, were on a Sunday afternoon cycle ride along the lanes of Great Ayton, North Yorkshire.

Ian Thomas was killed almost immediately as he and Miss Laviolette were hurled onto the windscreen of Cosgrove's car and over a hedge. Miss Laviolette had a broken neck, fractured pelvis and arm, ligament damage to her legs and will probably be on crutches for the rest of her life. She was in hospital for three weeks and five months later is awaiting plastic surgery to her face.

Stephen Thomas, a Bradford University student, received minor injuries but is still affected by the trauma of finding his father dying, the court was told. After the collision, Cosgrove was found "stiff and staring" in the driving seat of his Ford Cortina with his foot still pressed hard down on the accelerator,

Barry Stewart, for the prosecution, said.

Cosgrove, a bachelor, also of Guisborough, was taking strong drugs to control his epilepsy and was not supposed to drink, but the night before he had drunk nine pints of beer, the court was told. He had been diagnosed as an epileptic in September 1985.

Two months before the accident, after a severe attack at the packing plant where he worked, he was switched from moving machinery. Hospital doctors told him that he must inform the Drivers' Vehicle Licensing Centre at Swansea that he was an epileptic but he failed to notify the centre or his insurers.

Twelve days before the accident his GP emphasised that he must not drive. Mr Stewart said. After the crash, nurses from a house near by said Cosgrove seemed unaware of what had happened.

Duncan Smith, for the defence, said that Cosgrove still had nightmares about the crash. He was receiving counselling and would be haunted by the accident for the rest of his life. Cosgrove pleaded guilty to causing the death by reckless driving of Mr Thomas.

Miss Laviolette and Mr Thomas were in court to hear Judge Peter Fox, QC, tell Cosgrove that there was no price that could be put upon the havoc that he had wreaked.

Judge tells of 'bomb' threat

BY RAY CLANCY

A JUDGE who jailed two men for contempt of court after a fight in his courtroom was subjected to a weekend of harassment and abuse, including a bomb threat, a court was told yesterday.

Judge Beezley jailed Edwin Morrell and his son, also called Edwin, on Friday after they tried to attack Jason Ewing, aged 21, who had been jailed for three years for killing Lisa Morrell and her boyfriend, Darryl Coppin, both aged 17, when his car ran them down. He had been drinking, and smoking cannabis.

The Morrells were released on bail on Saturday to appear

before Judge Beezley at Cambridge crown court yesterday. They apologised through their barrister for their behaviour and were freed. The judge told them: "I did not spend the quietest weekend of my life. I've been subjected to abuse and harassment. That it included last night a bomb threat is one of those things that one must put up with."

Judge Beezley said that he was not suggesting that the Morrells were involved in the harassment. He accepted that the court incident happened "in the agony of the moment".

David Hes, for the Morrells, said that they had

been anxious and strained as they heard how Ewing lost control entering the village of Soham, Cambridgeshire, mounted the pavement and hit the two teenagers. They had learned Ewing had been on court bail.

"The last straw was when the young man... turned to look, as he was being led away, at Edwin Morrell senior and smiled. I am instructed, in a sarmy way, as though saying, 'I, Ewing, have got away with it,'" Mr Hes said. As Ewing smiled, Mr Morrell senior rushed towards him, not knowing what he intended to do. His son also rushed forward.



Still dancing: Shirley Maclaine, the actress, in London yesterday signing copies of her book *Dance While You Can*. Miss Maclaine, aged 57, said the title meant "living every moment for what it is worth"

Dearer pint in other nations, OFT to be told

BY DAVID YOUNG

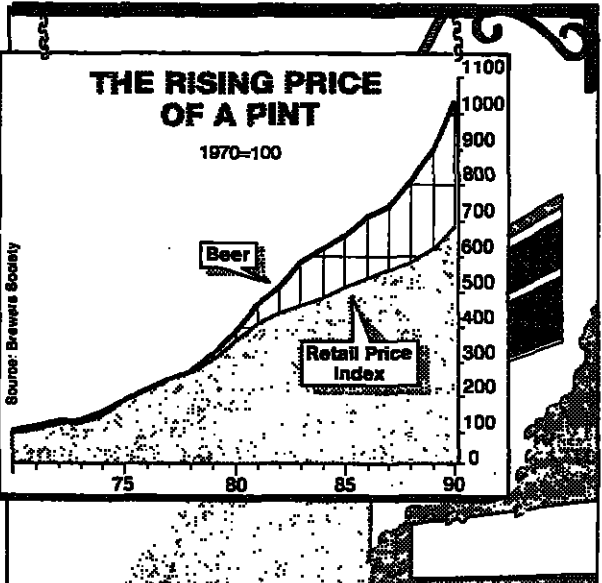
Brewers defend beer price rises

BREWERS are preparing to defend their pricing policies to the Office of Fair Trading (OFT), which has voiced concern that the price of a pint is rising faster than inflation.

The brewers will argue that the average price compares favourably with those elsewhere in Europe, that the tax and excise element has risen faster than the commercial element, and earnings faster than prices.

The big brewers have faced growing complaints from drinkers that prices are rising faster than inflation, and figures from Camra, the consumer group, show that beer prices have risen by up to 18 per cent in the past year.

The brewers are arming themselves with figures from the Central Statistical Office which show that since 1974 book and newspaper prices have risen from an index of 100 to £27.5, entertaining to 737.9, housing repairs to 712.4, beer to 710.5, car



maintenance to 635.9 and canteen meals to 599.9.

They will also argue that earnings have risen faster than beer prices despite increases in tax and duty at a higher rate than inflation. In 1970 it took the average British worker 16 minutes to earn the price of a pint of bitter, 13 minutes in 1980 and 11 minutes in 1990. The figures for a pint of milk are five minutes, four and three.

However, the brewers' figures show that the over-the-counter price of a pint has outstripped inflation since the Conservatives came to power in 1979. In the previous ten years prices tracked inflation and in most years rose at a slightly lower rate.

There is also increasing concern within the trade department that its efforts to break the big brewers' power over setting prices and controlling the number of outlets are being thwarted.

The National Licensed

Model in TV car ad banned from road

PAULA Hamilton, the model and star of a Volkswagen television commercial, was banned from driving yesterday.

Hamilton, aged 33, who in the advertisement is left with just the keys of her Golf GTI after leaving her boyfriend, was banned for 21 days for speeding at 99mph in her Bentley. Magistrates in Witney, Oxfordshire, were told that she was caught speeding twice in 13 minutes.

She was recorded travelling at 99mph in a 70mph zone on the A40 at Curbridge on August 25 last year and at 90mph a few miles further on in a 60mph zone.

Hamilton, of Brixton, south London, who was not in court, pleaded guilty to the offences last month. The case had been adjourned for sentence. She was also fined £110 for the first offence and £110 for the second.



Hamilton flips the VW keys on small screen

Mortimer seeks ban on jailing children

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

A CAMPAIGN to ban the imprisonment of boys and girls aged 15 will be launched today as figures show that hundreds of young people are being sentenced or remanded to jail.

Campaigners will meet Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, tomorrow to press for legislation to end a system under which, last year, 428 boys and girls were convicted and sentenced to prison and 363 boys remanded to jail. Frances Crook, director of the Howard League, said: "It is scandalous that we believe a child of 15 is too young to buy cigarettes, be tattooed or pay prescription charges, but can experience the full horror of a prison like Brixton."

John Mortimer, QC, president of the league, said that the suicides of three boys in prison in the past two years

Joyrider watched his best friend die

By CRAIG SETON

A TEENAGE joyrider who admitted causing four deaths during a high-speed car chase yesterday told a judge at Nottingham crown court that he would never drive again after his best friend died in his arms.

The court heard that Marcus Eames, aged 17, who was banned at the time, drove one of two stolen cars in a race at speeds of up to 99mph last July. Two joyriders in the other car, including his friend, Peter Meares, aged 16, died when it collided with an oncoming vehicle, killing the occupants, Andrew and Joan Auld.

The court heard that although Eames' car was not involved in the collision, he accepted that he was equally responsible. He admitted causing four deaths by reckless driving and other offences. Anthony Smith, QC, for the defence, read out a letter written by Eames while in custody.

It said: "Since July 19 there hasn't been a day gone by when I haven't thought about the accident. All I ever see when I close my eyes is the two friends I have lost. I never had much contact with my family since the age of two. Now I have gone and lost everything I ever had. I will never drive another vehicle again because I have seen what it does to lives and other people's families. My best friend Peter Meares died in my arms. I have wrote you this to say how sorry I am. I just hope you understand how I feel."

John Warren, for the prosecution, said that Eames and four young friends took a Vauxhall Nova from Coalville, Leicestershire, and a Rover Metro from a car park in Nottingham. Eames, unemployed, of Leicester, drove the Nova with Robert Meares and Emma Hall-Perry as passengers while Benjamin Pierce, aged 17, drove the Metro with Peter Meares, Robert's brother, beside him.

Mr Warren said Pierce's car collided head-on with a Fiat Uno driven by Andrew Auld, 30, whose wife Dorothy, 31, was a passenger. The couple, hospital pharmacists from Moseley, Birmingham, were killed. Pierce, from Normanton le Heath, Nottinghamshire, and Peter Meares, from Ibstock, Leicestershire, also died.

An earlier hearing was told that Eames pulled his friends from the Metro before it burst into flames and watched Peter Meares die, before running away.

The judge remanded Eames in custody for three weeks for probation reports. Eames also admitted taking two cars without permission, driving while disqualified, burglary and theft.

Sisters charged

Michelle Taylor, aged 21, and her sister Lisa Taylor, aged 18, both of Forest Hill, southeast London, were committed for trial to the Central Criminal Court yesterday charged with the murder of Alison Shaugnessy, aged 21, a bank clerk whose husband found her stabbed at their flat in Battersea last June. Michelle Taylor was remanded in custody and her sister remained on bail.

Sentence stays

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Attorney-General, failed in the appeal court to increase an armed robber's seven-year jail sentence on the grounds that it was too lenient. Steven Roast, aged 35, of Dagenham, Essex, was jailed at the Old Bailey last September for robbery and possessing a firearm but three judges, headed by the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane, refused to increase the sentence.

TSW must wait

The Court of Appeal yesterday reserved judgment until a later date after a six-day hearing of the case in which Television South West is seeking to win back its regional broadcasting licence, lost to Westcountry Television in last year's franchise "auction". TSW wants the Independent Television Commission's decision to award the franchise to a lower bidder quashed.

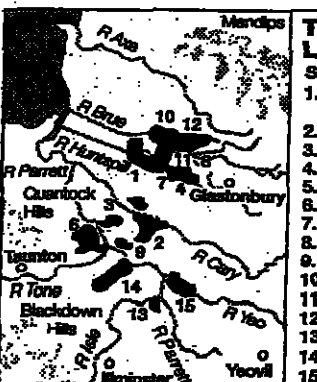
Fate of marsh birds hangs on last-ditch offer to farmers

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

NEW financial incentives announced earlier this month by the agriculture ministry offer the last chance to persuade farmers to co-operate in a plan to save the Somerset Levels, Britain's richest wetland, according to conservationists.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds fears that the area's bird population could vanish or survive only in nature reserves unless farmers agree to maintain water levels and allow flooding of their land during winter and early spring. English Nature says that wetland flowers, such as creeping jenny and marsh marigold, are also becoming rarer.

The levels, created by eight rivers as they meander to



THE SOMERSET LEVELS AND MOORS

Sites of special scientific interest

1. Catcott, Edington and Chilton Moor
2. King's Sedge Moor
3. Langmead and Weston Level
4. Meare Heath
5. Meare Heath
6. North Moor
7. Shawmoor Heath
8. Street Heath
9. Southlake Moor
10. Tostan and Tatham Moors
11. Westhay Moor
12. Westhay Moor
13. West Moor
14. West Sedge Moor
15. Wet Moor

or nutrient-rich rye grass that crowd out other plants and cannot bear flooding.

The drying-out of the levels has diminished their appeal for over-wintering geese, ducks and swans. In less than a decade, the number of lapwing, snipe, curlew, red-

shank, black-tailed godwit and other ground-nesting waders breeding and feeding there in the spring has halved. The godwit, which was absent from Britain as a breeding bird from 1847 to 1952, nests in few other places in the country. There are estimated to be no more than 50 breeding pairs.

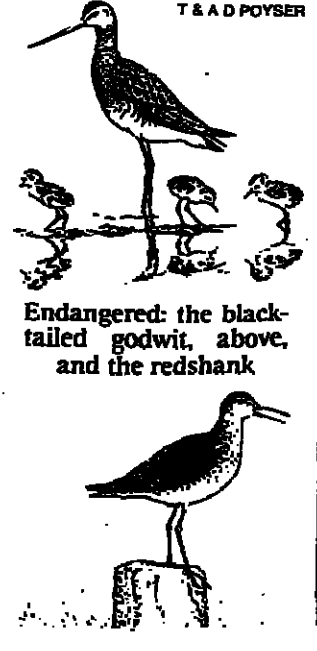
Farmers, who control the local drainage boards, are to be offered grants of £140 an acre if they agree to stop the water in their ditches from falling more than a foot below mean field level between May 1 and November 30, to ensure winter and spring flooding.

Cattle grazing will be allowed, but the animals must not be put out before May 20 or stocked more densely than 1.8 to the acre. Silage-making will be

banned and haymaking allowed only during July and August. Fertiliser use will be limited to ten tons of cattle manure per acre a year and herbicides will be banned.

Stanley Davies, the RSPB's southwest regional officer, said: "The new grants are encouraging. They ought to be high enough to attract many farmers at a time of falling incomes. The only difficulty is that, for the scheme to have an impact on water levels, whole groups of farmers will need to take part."

The grants will be aimed initially at eight areas of special importance for bird populations: Catcott, Edington and Chilton Moors, King's Sedge Moor, Moorlync, North Moor, Southlake Moor, Tatham and Tatham Moors, West Sedge Moor and Wet Moor.



Endangered: the black-tailed godwit, above, and the redshank

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Ethnic homes aid leaps to £750m

BY RACHEL KELLY, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

ALMOST £750 million will be invested over the next five years in housing associations set up to meet the needs of black people and ethnic minorities, the Housing Corporation said yesterday.

This year the figure is expected to be £97 million, 9.5 per cent of the corporation's total budget on rented programme for social housing provided by housing associations of over £1 billion and almost three times last year's £37 million. The corporation will invest £139 million next year, rising to £173 million in 1995/6.

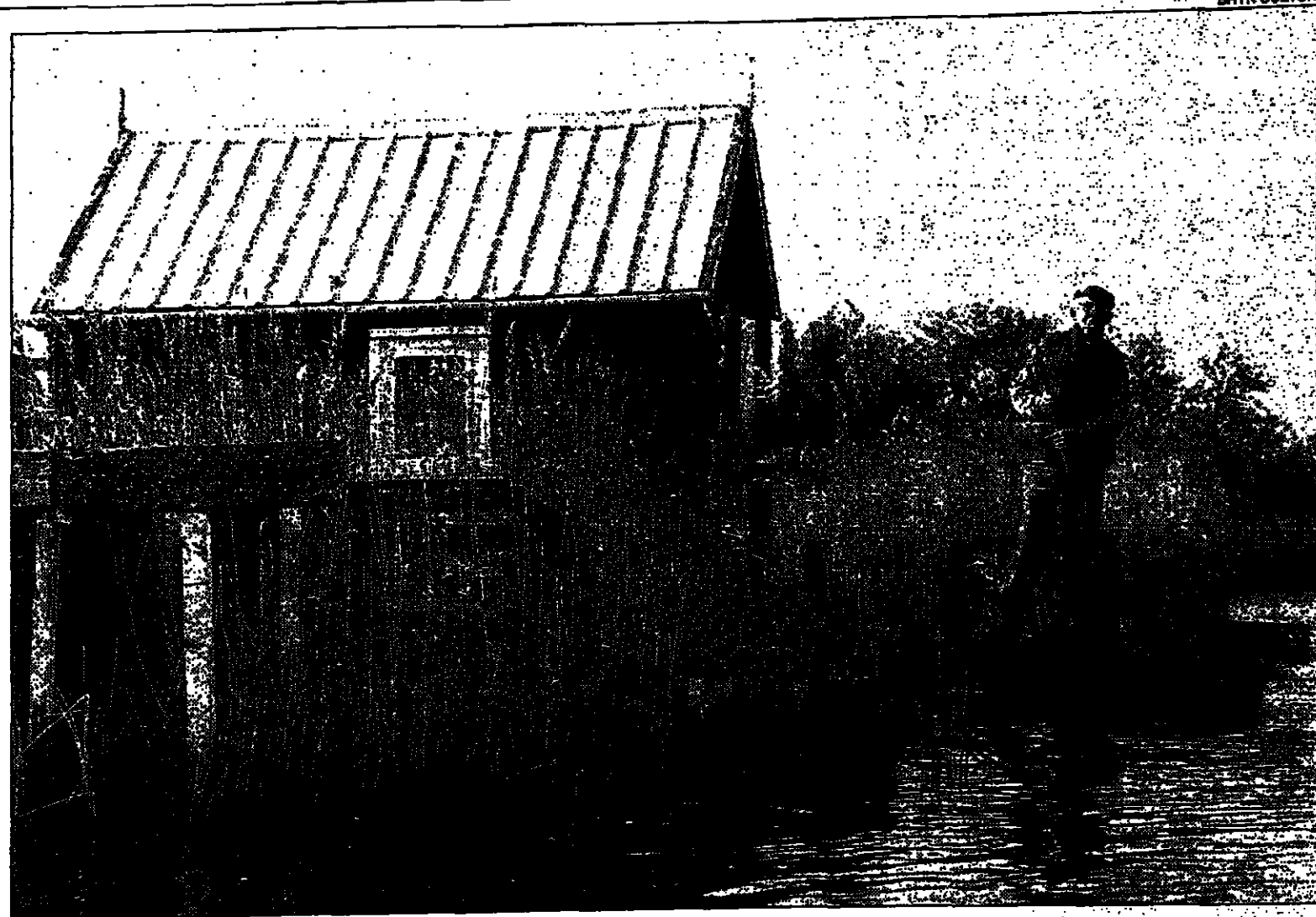
"This represents a very significant increase," Richard Clark, of the corporation, said. "This is a milestone for minority ethnic groups across the country."

The money will pay for 10,000 new homes. In addition, 2,400 homes will be transferred from larger, predominantly white-managed housing associations. The

ethnic and black housing associations are those managed by committees of which at least 80 per cent are of African, Asian, Caribbean or southeast Asian ethnic or racial origin.

In line with the corporation's recommendations, the Sanctuary Housing Association in Hertfordshire yesterday announced that it is transferring 350 homes to black housing associations. The corporation said that housing associations should be prepared to consider transfers of 2.5 to 5 per cent.

There are only four black and ethnic minority associations which are financially independent. The corporation plans to increase this to 40 in five years and hopes that such associations will manage 16,500 homes by 1996, compared to 4,000 at present. The corporation is setting up training programmes to help associations reach the required targets.



Banking on a buyer: John Meynell at the eel set yesterday. The set supplied the London jellied eel market for more than a century

Source of jellied eels up for sale

A RELIC of Norfolk's fishing heritage, the Candle Dyke eel set on the Thurne at Potter Heigham, has been put up for sale (Michael Hornsby writes).

The set, which supplied the London jellied eel market for more than a century, has not been used for the past two years. The owners, the Potter Heigham Trust, has invited bids for the small plot on the river bank, which includes a wooden jetty, fishing gear and a hut where eel fishermen kept all-night vigils.

John Meynell, clerk to the trust, said: "We think this is the last set left in Norfolk. We would like a new owner to keep the eel-fishing tradition going, but the Charity Commissioners said that we could not make that a condition of sale."

Bertie High, aged 73, who used to fish for eel at Candle Dyke in the Fifties and once caught a quarter of a ton in a night, said that August, September and October were the best months. "The eels would usually start running about three days after a full moon."

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Position _____
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Address _____
Postcode _____ Tel. No. _____

Cot deaths linked to critical weeks

BY THOMSON PRENTICE, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

BABIES who may be at risk of cot death take longer than average to go through a "danger zone" in their early development, researchers have discovered.

The vulnerable stage, during which body temperatures and heart rate can be affected by external factors such as an infection, begins at four weeks. For most infants, it lasts only a further four weeks or so but, for some, it continues to about 20 weeks.

Babies in this category share many of the characteristics of infants involved in the 1,500 cot deaths a year, a researcher said yesterday. These include problems at birth, sleeping face down, having a young mother, being the second or subsequent child and coming from lower income groups. "Some babies could be more vulnerable because they spend longer in a critical stage of development," Stewart Petersen, a lecturer in physiology at Leicester University medical school said. "All babies pass through this stage, but those who remain in it longest are most likely to meet the critical combination of circumstances, probably involving an infection," he said.

In a project funded by the Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths, Dr Petersen and colleagues have been studying the development of night-time body temperature

rhythms in babies. In the first few weeks, temperature falls only slightly with night sleep, and there is no difference between day and night sleeps. Then a second phase begins in which, over a few nights, temperature falls significantly more with night sleep.

The timing of development can be affected by the way the baby is cared for, so in principle it is possible to reduce the time spent in the critical stage and, presumably, the risk. Dr Petersen said: "Breast-fed babies spent less time in this phase, he said, but there was no link between bottle-feeding and cot deaths in Britain."

Joyce Epstein, secretary-general of the foundation, said: "These new results are very exciting. They mean medical scientists are well on the way to narrowing down not only which babies are at risk of death, but also when." Virginia Bottomley, the health minister, said: "We don't believe there is a quick fix solution to cot deaths, but this is an important piece of research that adds to our understanding of the complex mechanisms at play in a baby's development." She said the suggestion that breast-fed babies developed more quickly through the vulnerable stage appeared to support the department's policy of encouraging breast feeding.

Water law is a pure dream

ABSOLUTE natural purity, hitherto the dream only of advertising men, will be aimed at in all the rivers, lakes and coastal waters of the European Community by a law which is being framed in Brussels (Michael McCarthy writes).

The ecological water quality directive, to be published in draft form in March, will envisage making all EC surface waters as pure as they would be without the influence of any human activities. It will aim at absence of toxic substances, the best possible concentration of oxygen and a state of natural health for all wildlife.

The proposal is the most ambitious piece of EC environmental legislation and will break new ground as a law with a philosophical goal.

Although EC officials accept that in practice it will be impossible to meet, they are convinced that the aim of perfection is the best one to set for a Community-wide water quality regime. All member states will be required to draw up action plans to work towards it, if governments accept the directive.

Such plans, involving pledges to use best available technology and environmental practice, would have a sweeping effect on a number of EC countries. Britain is already drawing up a programme of water quality objectives and environment department sources said the Brussels proposal did not cut across government thinking. News of it emerged yesterday at the UN conference on water and the environment in Dublin.

Killer of church man jailed

One of two men who killed a retired schoolmaster after he refused them money was jailed for eight years by the Central Criminal Court, London, yesterday.

Timothy Kelly, aged 21, of Deptford, south London, had admitted the manslaughter of Ronald Harrison, aged 52, who was beaten, slashed with a paper knife and strangled. Mark Dooley, aged 17, of Deptford, who also admitted manslaughter, was sentenced to seven years in a young offenders' institution.

The two had been altar servers at St Paul's church in Deptford, where Mr Harrison, from Plumstead, south London, had read a lesson the day before he was killed.

Poll tax rise

Western Isles council, which lost £24 million in the BCCI collapse, has been recommended by its budget committee to increase its poll tax from £26 to £122.

Stamp gift

Stamps and artwork from the private postal service on Lundy Island, in the Bristol Channel, have been donated to the British Library by the Landmark Trust.

Pollution fine

A farm owned by the Benedictine order at Ampleforth College, near York, was fined £350 for polluting a stream.

Traffic stuck

An eight-mile tailback was caused on the M6 at Knutsford, Cheshire, after a lorryload of traffic spilled on to the road and froze.

RAISING THE STANDARD OF PUBLIC SERVICES.

Kinnock attacks 'cheater's charter'

Tories boost people power

BY ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN Major yesterday attempted to put new impetus behind the citizen's charter, insisting that it would remain at the heart of the government's policy-making through the 1990s.

The prime minister believes that for the 40 per cent of GDP which remains in the public sector facing no market disciplines, the citizen's charter is the only available catalyst for reform in the interests of consumers.

Mr Major said the next Tory government would legislate to give citizens powers to challenge unlawful strikes in the public sector. There would be reforms to limit the Post Office monopoly, wider public involvement in inspection bodies for such organisations as the police and social workers and an extension of performance-related pay in the public sector.

There would also be swift progress towards a passenger's charter making British Rail more accountable. Mr Major said: "It will also improve significantly the terms of compensation they should make available to passengers who suffer worst from train delays." A new benefits charter was launched yesterday and Customs and Excise will produce a traveller's charter tomorrow. Videos will be launched explaining the tax system to small businesses and the courts system to jurors and witnesses.

Mr Major announced a study into why patients have to wait so long when referred to consultants, and a telephone helpline, the "charter-line", for those facing "a blank wall of bureaucracy".

Claiming success for the charter already, Mr Major gave as examples the £70 million of taxpayers' money

The main points announced by the government yesterday include:

□ Strikes: citizens will be given powers to challenge unlawful public sector strikes.

□ Post office: reforms to limit the post office monopoly.

□ Inspection bodies: wider public involvement in for such organisations as the

police and social workers.

□ Pay: an extension of performance-related pay in the public sector.

□ Passenger's charter: swift progress towards making British Rail more accountable.

□ Benefits charter: aims to reduce delays in payments.

□ Traveller's charter: to be produced by Customs and Excise tomorrow.

memorial publicised their policies to those who needed to know about them. Those who said that service could only be improved with more money, he said, were guilty of "old thinking". Defending his inability to name any public servant who had been disciplined for failing to provide a better service since the charter came in, Mr Maude said: "Public servants don't need to be bullied and hounded into giving good service."

Mr Major described the citizen's charter as a blueprint to deliver higher standards in public services. "There is no excuse for accepting second-rate perfor-

mance. It is economically wasteful, it is socially unacceptable and it is a poor use of the many talented people who work in the public sector."

He added: "The privatisation of British Rail and British Coal, the deregulation and privatisation of London buses will be priorities in the next parliament. But the main thrust of the charter is to empower the individual."

□ The benefits charter launched by Tony Newton, the social security secretary, says that applications for crisis loans from the social fund should be settled "by the day the need arises". Clearance time standards for all benefit claims will be displayed in social security offices.

Income support claims should be cleared in an average of four working days, and 60 per cent of family credit claims should be settled in 13 working days, the charter says. A customer services manager to be appointed at each office will handle any complaints "within seven working days".

Woodrow Wyatt, page 12
Leading article, page 13



'Militant' MP threatens new challenge

LABOUR'S efforts to shun off the Militant tag suffered a setback last night when Dave Nellist indicated that he would stand against the party's official candidate at the general election (Peter Mullan writes).

Mr Nellist, the MP who was expelled because of his alleged sympathies with the

hard-left grouping, is expected to announce his decision formally tomorrow. He will do so if Labour's national executive committee starts, as expected, the process of picking a new candidate to defend his majority of 6,653 at Coventry South East.

The continued defiance of Mr Nellist, a popular constitu-

ency figure, will dismay party chiefs seeking to eradicate reminders of extremism and is bound to be exploited by the Tories, who will relish a split in Labour's vote.

However, it could also work in Neil Kinnock's favour by highlighting his battle over the past six years to purge his party.

Guilty party? David Blunkett launching a Labour attack on the poll tax yesterday. Labour claimed that the government was "in a panic" over bills due before the general election. "Each voter will get a personal reminder of the most hated policy of the last 13 years — either just before polling day or just as the election date is named," Bryan Gould, the shadow environment secretary, told a news conference.



Homes to get energy labels

A new labelling scheme showing the energy efficiency of homes is to be incorporated with two existing schemes to help house buyers compare the efficiency of properties. David Heathcoat-Amory, the junior energy minister, told the Commons. The National Energy Foundation and MVM-Stampout had agreed to incorporate into their own labels the government's new standard assessment procedure for rating energy efficiency of homes, he said.

Coal cost

If electricity at present generated by nuclear power in the United Kingdom was instead derived from coal, about 55 million tonnes more carbon dioxide would be emitted, increasing emissions by about 10 per cent a year. David Heathcoat-Amory, the junior energy minister, said during question time.

Gas deflation

The average household gas bill has fallen in real terms over the past four years according to John Wakeham, the energy secretary. In 1987 the average annual bill was £268; now it is £237, a fall in real terms of 8 per cent, he said.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Education and science prime minister. Prison Security Bill, remaining stages. Lords (2.30): Local Government Finance Bill, committee, fourth day.

Electricity shakeup

BY OUR PARLIAMENTARY STAFF

PRIVATISING the electricity industry in Northern Ireland was the only way to improve its efficiency, MPs were told last night. Competition would give consumers the sort of service they ought to get. Richard Needham, a junior Northern Ireland minister, said in the Commons.

The management of the utility was unable to recognise new opportunities because of the flawed system under which it worked, he said. "Operating an undertaking in public ownership

Pension fund reforms urged

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A PENSION fund trustee's right to silence should be restricted so that he can be compelled to give information which might help to recover dissipated assets, MPs were told yesterday.

Sean Hand, head of the pensions unit for solicitors Cameron Markby Hewitt, told the social security select committee that immediate legislative changes should be made so that a refusal to disclose such information would be treated as contempt of court. Mr Hand also recommended that sponsoring employers should be prevented from controlling occupational pension schemes and should be prohibited from being trustees "to reduce the temptation for abuse and fraud".

Giving evidence as part of the committee's inquiry into pension fund ownership and management, Mr Hand suggested that legislation should be urgently introduced to prohibit transfers of beneficiaries' accrued benefits without their consent. Where accrued benefits are transferred from a scheme when a company is sold, or as part of an assets sale, the benefits should be exclusively earmarked for the benefit of the transferring employees, Mr Hand said.

Mr Hand underlined the need for regulatory mechanisms and for a compensation scheme for pensioners which could be funded by insurance companies and/or the government.

This week the committee is drawing up a series of written questions which will be sent to all the Mirror Group pension fund trustees, including the two Maxwell brothers, to try to find out how more than £400 million was siphoned off from the fund.

locks the management into a mindset which is 'steady as she goes'."

Mr Needham was moving the Electricity (Northern Ireland) Order, which provides for four power stations run by Northern Ireland Electricity to be sold by tender to not less than two companies. Transmission, distribution and supply will be floated on the stock exchange as a separate entity, probably in the autumn.

Jim Marshall, for Labour, said that privatisation was far from popular in the province.

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The Middle East peace process

Confusion over Palestinian team casts shadow on talks

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

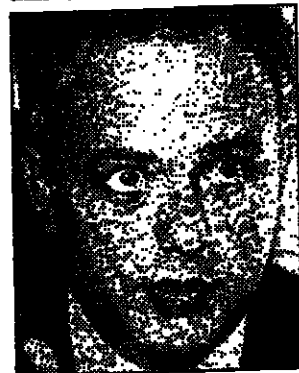
ISRAELI said yesterday that any change in the composition of the Palestinian delegation to today's talks in Moscow could put the whole Middle East peace process in jeopardy.

Asked about reports that the Palestinians wanted to include representatives from east Jerusalem and the Palestinian diaspora in their delegation, Moshe Raviv, the general director of the Israeli foreign ministry, said: "All should stick to the understanding already reached. If we don't stick to it, I believe that the whole process will be in jeopardy."

Earlier Aleksandr Belonogov, deputy head of the Russian delegation, had emphasised that the Moscow meeting was based on the same principles as those that had governed the inaugural talks in Madrid. "We are assuming that the Palestinians will work together with Jordan as they did at Madrid," he said. "There will be one double-headed delegation." He added that this precedent would not necessarily be followed in

future talks, when the issues, rather than the framework for talks, were being addressed.

Mubarak Moussa, a Palestine Liberation Organisation spokesman in Moscow, said that the Palestinians were



Kozyrev: Russia wants to play an active role

sending a large delegation, including people from Jerusalem and outside the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. He said that negotiations on the precise composition would be decided when the group arrived.

Before leaving Amman, Hanan Ashrawi, the spokesman for the Palestinian delegation, said: "We were not happy with the Madrid formula. We want a complete team representing national unity and the unity of the cause and the entire Palestinian people, both outside and inside [the occupied territories]."

Doubt about the Palestinian delegation cast a measure of uncertainty over prospects for the Moscow meeting. A further element of uncertainty was added by the disappearance from Moscow of President Yeltsin. Vitali Churkin, the Russian foreign ministry spokesman, had said several times that Mr Yeltsin intended to preside over the opening and so make his debut as an international statesman.

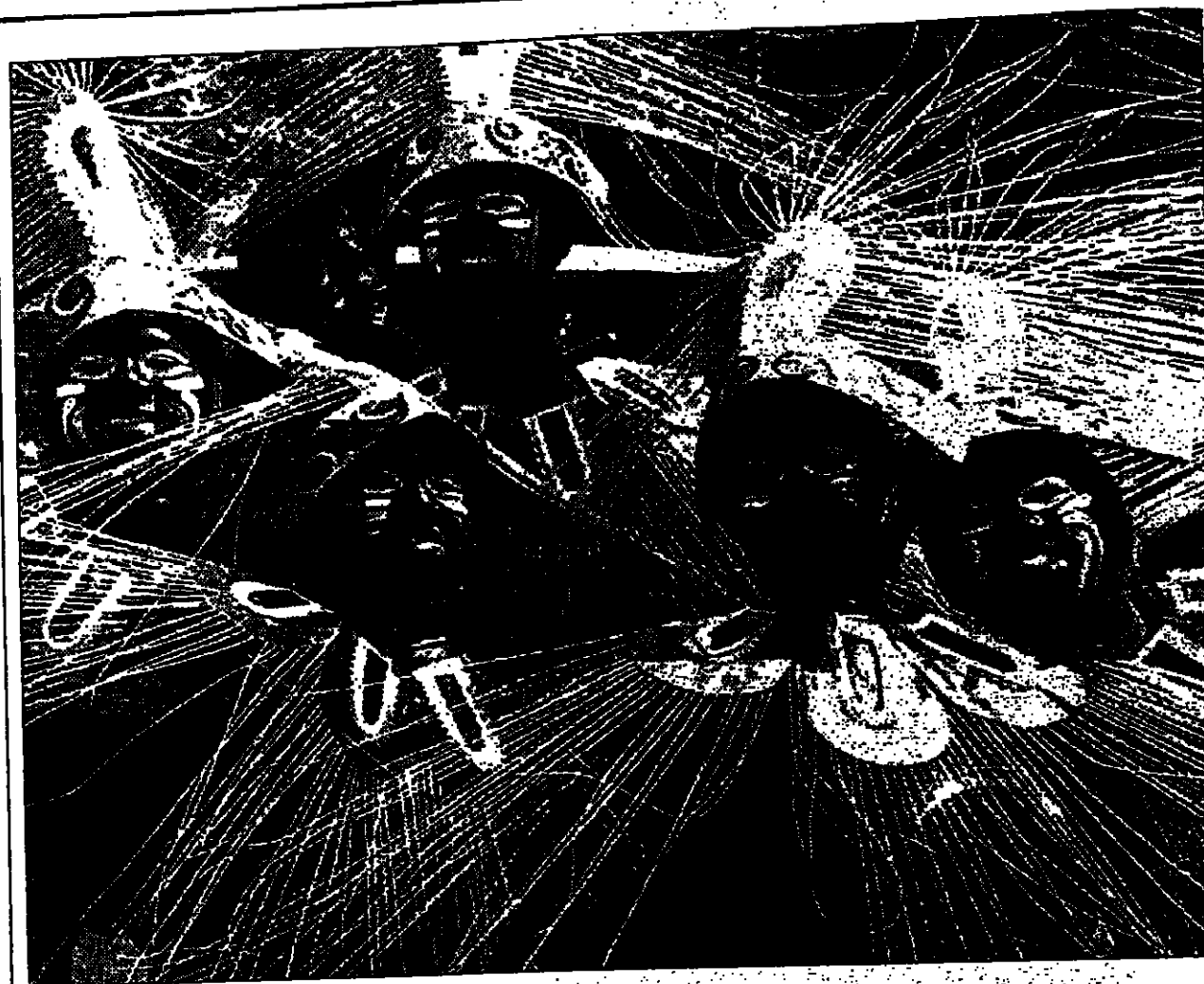
Yesterday Andrei Kozyrev, the Russian foreign minister, said that under existing agreements the co-chairmen for today's opening meeting were the Russian foreign minister and his American counterpart. "The president

is not obliged to take part," he said.

Without Mr Yeltsin, however, the meeting inevitably becomes less of a showcase for the new Russian diplomacy and more of a working meeting. Russian officials, however, were concerned to emphasise Russia's strategic and economic interests in the Middle East now that Russia has inherited the mantle of the Soviet Union.

Mr Kozyrev said that Russia's interests included "the prevention of flares of confrontation" in the region, as well as a peaceful Arab-Israeli settlement. He said that Russia wanted to play an active role in bringing about peace in the region and "not play second fiddle".

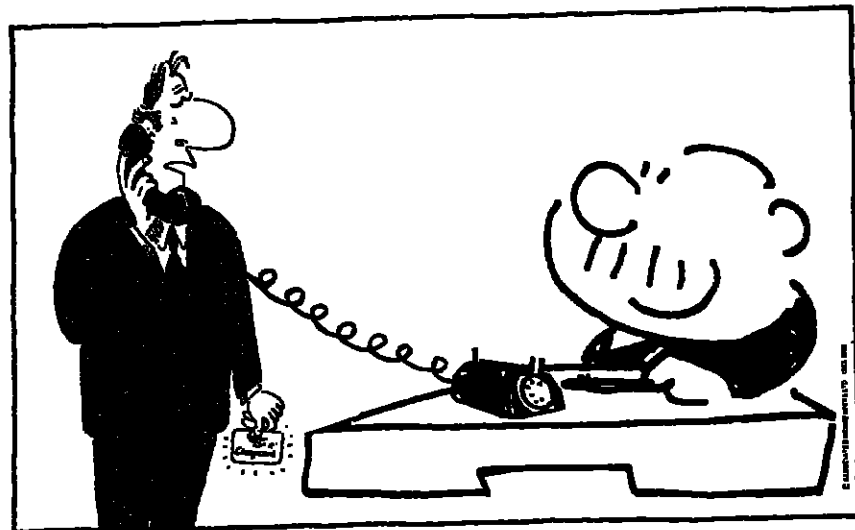
Vladimir Petrovsky, a former Soviet deputy foreign minister, who chaired the preparatory committee for the Moscow meeting, said that Russia planned to play the role of mediator in the region. He also emphasised that Russia would co-operate "very closely" with the United States as co-sponsors.



Sparks of joy: Filipino youths, their faces blackened with charcoal, join in a fiesta in Makati in Manila on Sunday. Parades and feasts take place all over the Philippines as spring approaches. Rallies are also

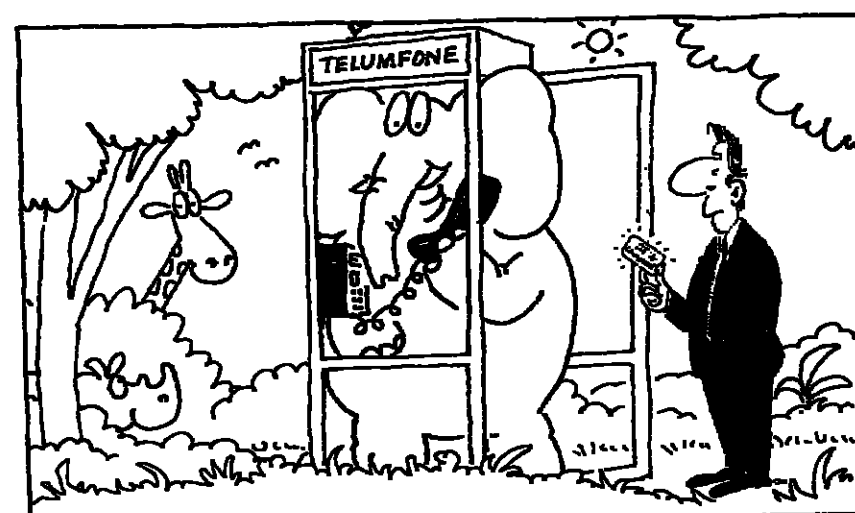
likely to be a big feature this year as the country holds a presidential election in May in which Imelda, the widow of former President Marcos, will take part. Yesterday supporters of Fidel Ramos, who is

being backed by President Aquino, broke with the largest party. Struggle of the Democratic Filipino, which nominated Ramon Mitra, the House speaker, as his candidate. (Associated Press reports)



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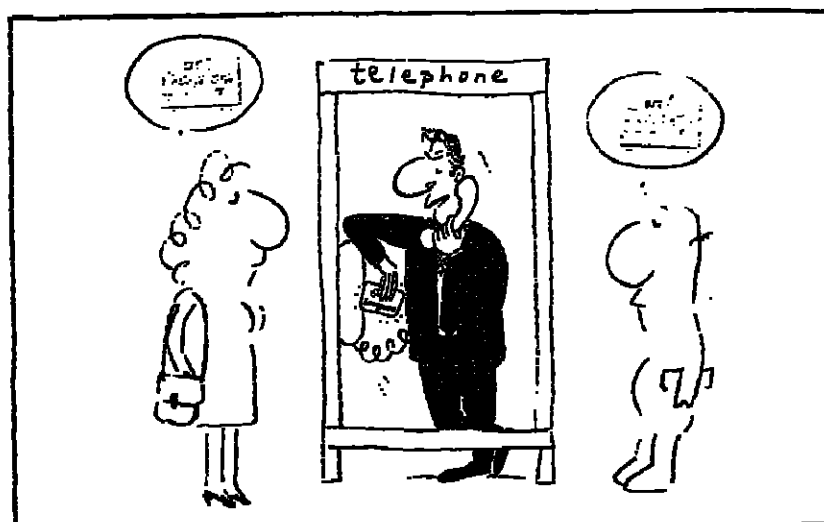
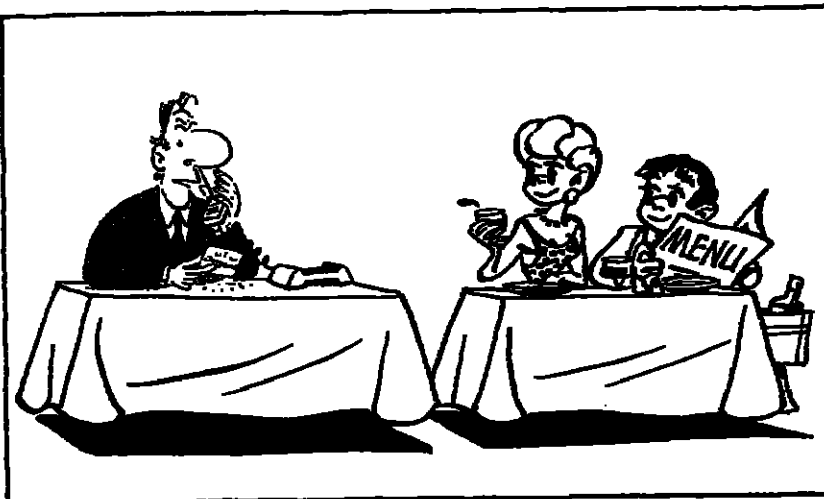
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Snub for hardline Afghans

FROM ZAHID HUSSAIN IN ISLAMABAD

ENDING its support for Islamic fundamentalist Afghan groups, Pakistan yesterday announced that it would support United Nations efforts to convene an Afghan assembly to decide on an interim government in Kabul.

Siddiq Kanju, foreign affairs minister, said that Pakistan would not allow the Afghan peace process to be held hostage by "a few rejectionists". He asked the Afghan mujahedin leaders to participate in the proposed intra-Afghan talks on the establishment of a representative government in Kabul.

Mr Kanju said that Pakistan has taken this initiative after it failed in its efforts to get the Afghan mujahedin groups to agree among themselves. "Different mujahedin leaders have to take their own decisions whether they want a peaceful settlement or not," Mr Kanju said.

The announcement is a big shift in Pakistan's 13-year-long policy of supporting a military solution to the Afghan problem.

The guerrilla groups continue to receive weapons from Pakistan in spite of the implementation of the agreement between America and the former Soviet Union to end arms supplies to both the warring sides in January.

Pakistan's latest decision will not only result in ending the arms flow to the rebel forces, but also put the government of Nawaz Sharif, the prime minister, at loggerheads with its erstwhile allies.

De Klerk 'condoned violence'

Cape Town: Cyril Ramaphosa, secretary-general of the African National Congress, yesterday accused President de Klerk of having had full knowledge of township death squads, and of doing nothing to stop them. He said a so-called third force, blamed by the ANC for many of the 4,300 deaths in township violence, was lodged within the army and police.

At Ennesburg, near Johannesburg, police fired tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse hundreds of demonstrators protesting against rents and electricity prices among other grievances. Dennis Alexander, general secretary of the Pan Africanist Congress, who took part in the protest, was arrested. (Reuters)

China challenge

Rome: Italy promised to help rebuild China's economy but questioned its human rights record, urging Li Peng, the visiting Chinese prime minister, to free jailed Roman Catholic bishops and dissidents. (Reuters)

Poor start

Baghdad: Sanctions and the after-effects of the Gulf war are likely to produce a "stunted generation" of Iraqis with low IQs, according to experts who say children born since 1990 suffered two years of serious deprivations. (Reuters)

Moving on

Teknaf, Bangladesh: Thousands of Muslim Burmese refugees who fled to Bangladesh from persecution by the Burmese army have now left the country. (Reuters)

Saddam in a spin over belly flop

FROM REUTERS IN BAGHDAD

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein has banned lavish tips to belly dancers after an admirer apparently threw a million-dinar cheque at the feet of a nightclub performer. The tipper was fined £178,000, to be distributed to the country's poor.

Complaining on national television about "frivolous behaviour and shameful spending", Saddam warned rich Iraqis not to flaunt their wealth.

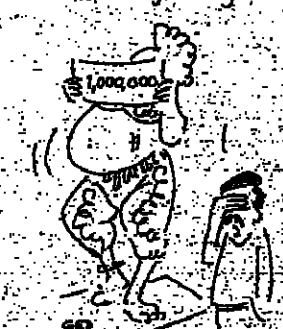
The case of the belly dancer and her fan underlines some of the tensions felt in a society where the rich have become richer and the poor so poor that they have to scramble even to be able to put together a daily meal.

The belly dancer incident began with a report in the government newspaper, al-Jumhouriyah, which said that Saib Ibrahim, a millionaire, had thrown a million-dinar cheque at the feet of a belly dancer in a nightclub at the resort of Habhaniyah which is west of Baghdad.

At the official rate, a million dinars equals £1.8 million. Even at the unofficial rate, a million dinars is a great deal of money, roughly 6,700 times the average Iraqi's monthly income. The al-Jumhouriyah re-

port coincided with the arrival in office of a new interior minister, Wabih Ibrahim al-Hassan. Saddam's half-brother, who is a tough, law-and-order man, attuned to the mood of the people through Iraq's multitude of intelligence services. Mr Hassan, apparently aware of discontent over a growing gap in Iraq between rich and poor, promptly put the million-

It's disgusting.



are tipper in prison and referred the matter to Iraq's highest authority, the president.

An investigation commission, which included the president's secretary, completed its enquiry into the belly dancer incident over the weekend. The commission found that the story did not entirely match the facts: the cheque in question was blank.

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Bush tries to bring back the Gulf war glory days

FROM PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR, IN WASHINGTON

AMERICAN patriotism, which flourished during the Gulf war, is reviving strongly for the battle against the economic invaders. A "Buy American" movement is gaining political strength and fashionable acceptance. Company chairmen are popping up on television to boast of the \$1,000 (£550) incentives they offer employees to buy American cars. Emotional advertisements show queues of jobless textile workers winding around the nation's marble state houses, and state contracts with Japan are being cancelled to appease indignant voters.

As President Bush prepares for tonight's State of the Union address, it has become fashionable to contrast today's gloom with the post-Gulf war euphoria that accompanied his last address to Congress. But, behind the national recession obsession, is the beginning of a national self-help movement which may at least make Americans feel a bit better.

Lack of confidence is the main problem Mr Bush will be trying to address tonight in a speech which even the White House has dubbed the most important of his presidency. He will produce a

"growth plan" of measures ranging from tax incentives for home buying and health protection to more money for pre-school education and control of tuberculosis.

He will present victory in the Cold War as an opportunity to spend more time and effort at home. But his top priority, and the one which Republicans are least certain he can fulfil, is to make Americans feel more optimistic about their future.

A little bit of "Buy American" is no bad thing, according to White House aides. It is the result of national anger stirred up by the 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbor, the president's own trip to Japan and Japanese attacks on "lazy, illiterate" Americans.

The campaign has resulted in the highly publicised cancellation of a \$122 million Japanese tramway contract for Los Angeles, and a \$40,000 Japanese excavator purchase for a suburb of Rochester, New York. An Illinois petrol station is giving a two-cent a gallon discount for drivers of American cars.

If, however, too much national pride becomes national protectionism, the White House will become worried, not only because it knows the economic cost of trade wars but because "protectionism" is the cry of all the president's opponents. Mr Bush cannot win a war on this ground against either the Democrats or Patrick Buchanan, his Republican challenger.

His job tonight is to raise national morale in other ways than by bashing foreigners. It is critical to his re-election prospects that he makes the grade.

● **No change:** The Bush administration yesterday welcomed President Yeltsin's statement that nuclear missiles in the former Soviet Union would no longer be aimed at America but said the US's nuclear targets would not be changed immediately. (AFP)



Bush: must do more than bash foreigners



Art borrows from life: Film extras for *Lethal Weapon III* add a touch of drama as they flee the explosion which demolished the Soreno Hotel in St Petersburg at the weekend to make way for an urban renewal programme. The cameras caught the demolition of the hotel by dynamite for use in the film.

Clinton's bold gamble matches Superbowl mood

BY PETER STOTHARD

IT WAS billed as the "State of the Marriage" address. Governor and Mrs Bill Clinton made a joint television appearance before about 40 million of their countrymen on Sunday night and asked for allegations about his extramarital affairs to be put aside in the interests of fairness, decency and the "real" debate over America's future.

"I have absolutely levelled with the people," Mr Clinton told their CBS interviewer, admitting only to unspecified "wrongdoing" in his marriage and "causing pain". "I am not standing by my man like Tammy Wynette," Hillary Clinton snapped. "I am sitting here because I love him, I respect him and I honour what he's been

through and what we have been through together. And you know, if that's not enough for people, heck, don't vote for him."

Even for viewers who had just sat through three razzmatazz hours of the football Superbowl, this was a bizarre event. Mrs Clinton wore blue-green, one of those colours that glows from television sets and compels pathetic wrangling with the contrast control. Mr Clinton was in grey, with a dull purple tie. If you tuned her down, you tuned him out — which may yet be the political result of it all.

Mr Clinton delivered the best arguments that he had. He recalled an earlier era when a divorced candidate would have been unable to

become president. "Are we going to take the reverse position now," he said, "that if people have problems in their marriages and there are things in their past which they don't want to discuss which are painful to them, that they can't run?" He tried to make a virtue out of his boldness in facing the cameras, pointing out that no other candidate for president had ever said so much about himself. He challenged the press — including his clearly uncomfortable questioner — to test their own characters by forswearing a game of "gotcha" with his future.

However, it was not a clear success. Despite the hopes of supporters, it lacked the impact of Richard Nixon's "Checkers" speech of 1952, in which charges of illegal campaign contributions were countered by the admission that he had once accepted a gift, a pet dog named Checkers for his daughter.

After that occasion Dwight Eisenhower had acclaimed his vice-presidential running mate with a beaming "You're my boy". There was no "Checkers" on Sunday night, no vivid image that would divert attention away from the attraction of sex. There were no beams in the Clinton camp either, only the bare hope that their bold gamble might result in a good show.



Hillary Clinton: sitting by her man

ing in the New Hampshire primary next month.

"If we can come back in New Hampshire," commented one Clinton worker, "we can put all this away. The people will have delivered their own verdict. But if we continue to fall there, we could be looking at the end of the line."

The decision to appear before the huge post-Superbowl audience was backed by Mr Clinton's top aide, James Carville, the architect of the Pennsylvania Senate victory last year which began the resurgence of Democrat hopes for the presidency. "We had to do it," he told *The Washington Post*. "We couldn't get our message out."

Part of that message was a repeated denial of an affair with his chief accuser, the former singer, Gennifer Flowers, whose story has been purchased and promoted by the supermarket magazine, *Star*. Governor Clinton called Mrs Flowers a "friendly acquaintance" and Mrs Clinton answered a quick "Oh sure" when asked if she was acquainted with her too.

Iron Mike fights to win over a Midwest jury

Mike Tyson tries to shed his bruiser image as he enters the arena of a rape case, writes Charles Bremner

use his fists to fight back when he was bullied and called a fairy. The turning point came when he tore the wings off one of his pet pigeons, sending the young Tyson berserk. By the time the 12-year-old boy had reached reform school for his repeated robberies with the Jolly Stompers gang he had been officially dismissed as "borderline retarded".

His mother died in 1982. His later teenage years were spent under the discipline of Cus D'Amato, the legendary boxing manager who spotted him as a future champion and adopted him. But Mr D'Amato's death and the stunning streak of knockouts that landed him the world heavyweight title in 1986 at the age of 20 unleashed the dark side of a character unequipped to handle the colossal riches and celebrity accorded to sports and entertainment superstars.

When Cus was gone, "there was nobody to soothe the beast in him," one sparring partner said. The world got a taste of the brutal side early in 1986, when the future champion described how he tried to "drive the bone" of his opponents' noses back into their brains. The scene was set then, Tyson's biographers say, for him to become a self-destructing star in the tradition of James Joplin and Jimi Hendrix.

He fell prey swiftly to the joys of unimaginable wealth and the greed and ambition of those around him, including, critics say, Don King,

the electric-haired promoter who took over his career and is guarding his every move in Indianapolis.

Tyson's troubles in controlling himself with women were reported widely before the public witnessed the humiliation he endured in his eight-month marriage to Robin Givens, the actress in 1987. While Miss Givens described the "nightmare" of his brutality on television, Tyson told *Playboy* magazine that his wife had received the best punch he ever threw. "I like to hurt women when I make love to them," he told one of his biographers.

The prosecution is planning to make much of from Mike's notoriously crude approach to women, behaviour that has landed him with six lawsuits for sexual battery and harassment. The prosecutors hope to show videotape of Tyson's approaches to other contestants at the Miss America beauty pageant in Indianapolis on the afternoon on which he visited his alleged victim to visit his hotel room at 2am. Two other contestants sued him.

Tyson argues back, with some justification, that women are eager to provoke him for the sake of the wealth a lawsuit can bring.

With the courtroom verbiage only two or three weeks away, the boxing world is musing on Tyson's place in the history of the sport. An acquittal will free him to fight for his old title with Evander Holyfield, but some see him as over the hill, despite the fact that at 25 he is five years below the age of the usual heavyweight prime. Although faster and more powerful than Muhammad Ali, he now resembles Rocky Liston, they say, more an intimidating bear than a budding genius.

White elephant threatens tribe

FROM SAM KILEY IN LODWAR, KENYA

KENYA'S grey African elephants only just manage to cling to survival, but in the northern desert region of Turkana, the mythical great white elephant flourishes. It is the most wasteful of several projects that were supposedly designed to improve or pacify the war-like Turkana people.

The white elephant is not, however, an example of misplaced goodwill on the part of foreign aid donors but a new hydro-electric dam now blocking the Turkwel Gorge in the Karasuk hills. The dam was built by Spie Batignolle, a French company, with Kenyan taxpayers' money, and is in the process of being handed over to the government. No celebrations are expected.

A Kenyan electricity worker said on a tour of the dam: "This is the whitest of white elephants. A disgrace for us all to cope with and a perpetual reminder of a rotten political system."

The dam could destroy the fragile ecosystem of Turkana and the way of life for 250,000 nomadic tribespeople. Already in the forests of the Turkwel river, which

runs underground for much of the year but provides dry-season grazing, trees are beginning to die. The dam was built in spite of the objections of ecologists and with little effort made to establish its possible effect on the fragile ecology of the desert.

"If the river dries up the desert will die, and then we might as well pack up and go home," said Father James Good of the Catholic diocese of Lodwar, almost the only

organisation keeping a region the size of Wales from disintegration. Although a proud and graceful people, the Turkana have never been popular in Kenya. They were subjected

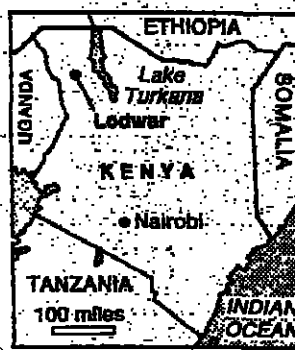
to genocidal punitive campaigns by the British colonial authorities during and after the first world war because of their cattle-raiding activities.

By 1945 about 35,000 people were dispersed into the desert in what they call "the great scattering". Since then neither the British nor Kenyan authorities have had much truck with the iron-age nomads who live in a vast sandy frying pan.

In an attempt to bring industry to the Turkana, Norway's aid agency, built the fish-freezing factory at Kalakol, 35 miles north of Lodwar, the regional capital.

With an estimated 50 per cent illiteracy rate, most Turkana are ignorant of recent political changes and believe what their local politicians from the ruling Kenyan African National Union tell them. This month 25 opposition supporters were beaten up in Lodwar after a rally.

"We didn't get rain last April, and if we don't get it this year there will be widespread famine," said Father Good.



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KETERING: Kettering Automobiles Ltd Northfield Ave 0536 64845

NORTHUMBERLAND

HEKHAM: Adams & Gibson Ltd Parkwell 0434 603 411
NORTH HUMBERSIDE: HULL: Asceluffs Car Sales Ltd 60 Clarence St 0452 255522

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

MANFIELD: Newell Nottingham Rd 0623 26101
NOTTINGHAM: Gordon Lamb Nottingham Limited Lanes Rd New Bedford 0402 425 100

NORTH YORKSHIRE

MALTON: Aston Motor Engineers Station 0853 829410
RICHMOND: Richmond Motor Co Dundas St 0745 823 856
RIPON: Chesters of Ripon Ltd Dallington Lane 0765 690000

SCARBOROUGH

SCARBOROUGH: Arundale Autocare Ltd Northway 0723 369 123
SKIPTON: Skipton Motors Nissan Highley Road 0756 701170
WHITBY: Arundale of Whitby Ltd Castle Park 0647 602641
YORK: K Cars of York Ltd North York Trading Estate Clifton 0804 892 444

SHERWOOD

OXFORDSHIRE: Humphreys Oxford Ltd 72 Rose Hill 0665 748 000

SHERWOOD

SHERWOOD: Harwell Charles Clark Shrewsbury & Coaster St 0743 206 600
TELFORD: Harveys of Telford Stafford Park 0952 291 800

SOMERSET

WINCANTON: F J Chalke Ltd Wincanton Business Park 0953 34335

SOUTH HUMBERSIDE

SCUNTORP: Amuliffe's Car Sales Ltd 40 Normanby Rd 0724 861 191

SOUTH YORKSHIRE

ROTHERHAM: Harveys of Rotherham West Barry Rd 0706 526060

STAFFORDSHIRE

STAFFORD: Poleworth Garage Limited Poleworth 0827 897 125

SUFFOLK

HALESWORTH: Halesworth Motor Company Norwich Rd 0688 573 658
IPSWICH: Marshall of Ipswich Oddard Rd East 0473 210 236
STOWMARKET: Jeffries of Ection Station Garage Ruckon 0449 751 131

SURREY

CAMBERLEY: Nissan Camberley 21 London Rd 0298 93353
EPSOM: Access Automobiles (Epsom) Limited 201 East St 0472 743 445
THORNTON HEATH: The Ancaster Group 247-553 London Rd 081 659 5221
WALLINGTON: Geyfords Pic 1 Stafford Rd 081 669 0136

TYNE & WEAR

GATESHEAD: C O Bramall-Gateshead Felting By-pass 091 477 0066
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE: Benfield Motors Benfield Rd 091 265 9171
SOUTH SHIELDS: Van Young South Shields Ltd Newcastle Rd 091 427 1500
SUNDERLAND: Ray Vardy Wessington Way 091 516 0500
WHITLEY BAY: Whitley Lodge Motor Co Cartmoun Rd 091 252 3247

WEST MIDLANDS

BIRMINGHAM: All Electric Garages Group Pk Hagley Rd Wey 021 421 1791
STOURBRIDGE: Kenton Automobile Ltd Grange Lane 0381 830866
TIPTON: Caldene Nissan 114 Dudley Post 021 520 2411

WEST SUSSEX

CHICHESTER: Hincham Sales Centre Chichester By Pass 0243 531 010
HAYWARDS HEATH: Barnard & Brough Limited Witleyfield Green 0444 84 771

WEST YORKSHIRE

BRADFORD: Appoyard Nissan Bradford Canal Rd 0974 741 874
DEWSBURY: Lockers of Dewsbury Limited Huddersfield Rd 0424 451 52
LEEDS: P K Motors (Bradley) Ltd Stanningley Rd 0532 557 117
LEEDS: P K Motors (Roundhay) Ltd Siret Lane 0532 361 043
SHIPLEY: Northern Motors 77 Cluck Rd 0574 534 153

WILTSHIRE

BOX: St Martin's Garage Ltd Bath Rd 0295 744 444
TROWBRIDGE: F Sloughholme & Sons Ltd Frome Rd 0421 752 079

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TROWBRIDGE: F Sloughholme & Sons Ltd Frome Rd 0421 752 079

COUNTY ARMAGH

LURGAN: Wesley Turkington Ltd Queen St 0742 323 351

COUNTY DOW

NEWRY: J W Kettle & Sons St Patrick St 0692 63185
PORTAFERRY: Queens of Portaferry 55-57 High St 02477 55911

COUNTY FERMANAGH

ENNSHILL: Auto Service Station Sligo Rd 0658 322 575

COUNTY TYRONE

AUGHMACLOY: Derek Loune Motors 41 Sydney St 0662 52355

COUNTY TYRONE

AUGHMACLOY: Derek Loune Motors 41 Sydney St 0662 52355

COUNTY TYRONE

AUGHMACLOY: Derek Loune Motors 41 Sydney St 0662 52355

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Information correct as the time of going to press

Turkey exploits cultural links as it eyes Central Asia riches



Muttalibov: ceremonial honours in Ankara

TURKEY is flexing its muscles as a regional power and turning its attention to the Asian republics of the former Soviet Union.

Last week Ayaz Muttalibov, the president of Azerbaijan, was received in Ankara with full honours. Those who greeted him included Hikmet Cetin, the Turkish foreign minister, who recently returned from a visit to Moscow designed to reassure the Russians that Turkey would not exploit its growing influence among the Muslim republics to reassert its own imperial ambitions in the Caucasus and beyond. Mr Muttalibov and President Ozal of Turkey signed a friendship and co-operation agreement.

Turkey reportedly intends to spend 300 billion lira

Ankara hopes to trade on its racial and religious ties with parts of the former Soviet Union for its ultimate advantage. Andrew Finkel in Istanbul writes

(about £30 million) on a cultural aid package for the Turkic republics of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Turkey already appears to have won a significant cultural skirmish by persuading the Azerbaijanis to follow its example in adopting the Roman alphabet. The Iranians and Saudis, also vying for influence, offered printing presses as an inducement to re-adopt Arabic, the common script for Turkic languages before the Cyrillic alphabet

was imposed in the 1930s. Suleyman Demirel, the Turkish prime minister, will next month visit America. Turkey is not only a Muslim country which is democratic and secular but it has also gone through some of the trauma of economic decentralisation.

Ankara is keen to emphasise that its improved relations to the East are in addition to, not at the expense of, its relations with the West. Presidential delegations from Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan



and Kirghizia all visited Turkey last month. For many Turks, this special relationship has taken some getting used to. In the past, enthusiasm in Turkey for their ethnic Turkic cousins was largely the property of right-wing nationalists. Now,

influenced by British Council-style cultural missions to its shores, Turkey plans to open its universities to Central Asian students, train Central Asian diplomats, and even set up schools abroad teaching in "Islamic" Turkish. Furthermore, with Turkey's launch next year of a French-built communications satellite, Turkic peoples from the Balkans to the Urals will be able to watch the same television programmes.

Ankara is patently hoping to translate a cultural advantage into long-term trading relations when those countries are able to mobilise their vast natural resources. But one Turkish businessman, who has tried to raise credit to export to Central Asia, said: "All this talk of cousins and

atavistic ties is fine for an evening out, but fades quickly the next morning."

Any future commercial advantage for Turkey has to be offset against short-term political risk, particularly if the Turkic populations decide that Turkey is the place to seek sanctuary from civil war and economic hardship. Ankara is also concerned that Azerbaijan may try to enlist its support in the dispute with Armenia for control of the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh. Indeed, for some Turkish businessmen, it is an improved relationship, not with Bakhi, the capital of Azerbaijan, but with Yerevan, the Armenian capital, that holds immediate promise.

Leading article, page 13



Demirel: will hear US support for new role

Government forces pound rebel port in Georgia

FROM REUTER IN POTI, GEORGIA

ONE person was killed and at least two were injured as new fighting broke out yesterday between government forces and supporters of Zviad Gamsakhurdia, the ousted Georgian president.

Flashes lit the winter sky and machinegun and artillery fire shook the Black Sea port of Poti after troops of Jaba Ioseliani, commander of the ruling military council in Tbilisi, attacked near a bridge outside the town. The attack was the fiercest assault for four days by Mr Ioseliani's forces, which are trying to break down the last pro-Gamsakhurdia resistance in the west of the republic.

Tengiz Baramidze, mayor of Poti, said that one person had been killed and at least two were wounded. He feared there could be many more casualties but had no precise figures. Gamsakhurdia loyalists, heavily outnumbered and outgunned, crouched behind sandbags as government forces pounded their positions with gunfire from five armoured personnel carriers facing the town.

"I like peace, but now it is

too late. We will fight back to the last drop of our blood," David Nadmashvili, said a St Petersburg student who had taken up arms to back Mr Gamsakhurdia.

Mr Gamsakhurdia, elected by a landslide last May, fled to Armenia three weeks ago after losing a bloody power struggle with the military council. He returned later to west Georgia, but his whereabouts have been unknown for the past week.

In Tbilisi, Tengiz Sigua, the acting prime minister, told a news conference that the president had fled north to Grozny, capital of the rebellious Chechen-Ingush republic in southern Russia. There was no immediate confirmation of that.

Military council leaders brand Mr Gamsakhurdia a dictator. He has described them as bandits and insisted that he is still the legitimate president of Georgia.

The new fighting in Poti, enclosed on two sides by government forces, came after the breakdown of peace talks between the two sides on Sunday. A Moscow television reporter at the scene quoted Mr Ioseliani, who he said had more than 400 soldiers in the area, as declaring: "There is no other way but war."

Ambulance sirens wailed as the fighting began and civilians fled in panic. About 20 loyalist gunmen crouched behind sandbags on the Poti side of the bridge, armed with Kalashnikov rifles and dressed in a mixture of flak jackets, camouflage gear and civilian clothes.

"Go away, it is very dangerous here," shouted one of the men, carrying three sticks of dynamite in one hand and waving a hand grenade in the other. Enver Samkashvili, one of the loyalist commanders, said: "We are very strong. Government forces will not be able to come here."

Tamara, aged 65, the mother of one of the Poti gunmen, wept as she watched from behind the lines. "Look what has happened to our country. We never saw fighting in our lives and we are afraid," she said.

Absent Yeltsin, page 1
Leading article, page 13

Fighting flares in Armenia

Moscow: Dozens of people were killed at the weekend in fighting between Armenian and Azerbaijani militants over the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, a spokesman for the Armenian mission in Moscow said yesterday.

The spokesman said 45 Azerbaijanis and 15 Armenians were killed when Azerbaijani fighters attacked the Armenian village of Karin-Tak on Sunday.

Tass said that 20 villagers and more than 60 attackers were killed. The news agency said that at least as many people had been wounded. (Reuter)

Satellite checks

Brussels: European Community farm ministers were close to deadlock here in their efforts to reform the E26 billion-a-year common agricultural policy. Talks will resume today. Surveillance based on a database supplied from satellite information has been suggested as a way of controlling over-production.

Hotel collapse

Santander, Spain: Two men died when the Hotel Bahia in this northern resort partially collapsed during renovation, a government spokesman said. Rescuers with sniffer dogs were still searching for three more workmen feared trapped. (Reuter)

New weapons

Vienna: Austria, which is neutral, plans to improve the standard of its weapons but is not arming itself against its neighbours, the defence ministry said. The army is to buy updated anti-aircraft and anti-tank missiles. (Reuter)

Closed books

Warsaw: Scripta Manent, the Polish publishing company, has been given three weeks to leave its premises in Krosno. The firm brought out an edition of Hitler's Mein Kampf which became an



Fashion flair: a model wears a black and white taffeta dress by Jean Louis Scherrer, left, while another displays a Pierre Cardin design in the spring-summer haute couture collection in Paris yesterday

West musters aid for the East

The former Soviet republics are to be briefed this week on Western plans to send in emergency food and medical supplies, Michael Binyon writes

A WESTERN delegation from the Washington summit on aid to the former Soviet Union is to fly to Minsk on Friday to brief the republics on plans to send them emergency food and medical supplies. The West will also boost energy supplies, co-ordinate technical assistance and set up shelters for soldiers returning from Eastern Europe.

The summit decided that big cities and remote parts of the former union are critically short of supplies. Severe food shortages are also affecting hospitals, old people's homes and orphanages.

Officials from America, Britain, Germany, Portugal, Japan and several other countries of the 47 at last week's summit will travel to Minsk on a German plane to present the conclusions of the working parties set up to co-ordinate aid. The republics will be invited to a follow-up meeting in Lisbon in late April.

Britain hopes to rent space on the American Galaxy airlift, and will send in food, syringes, bandages and other urgent supplies. British officials say the airlift is more than just symbolic and will be an essential way of getting provisions to inaccessible areas.

The summit decided that all food distribution must be ready in place. A third of the stocks from the European Community will be sold on the open market, but proposals for an auction have been shelved because an auction would play into the hands of black marketeers.

Most produce will be sold below the high prices now in force: butter, for example, will be sold for 56 roubles a kilo in

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Istanbul's police accused of child torture in report

BY ANDREW FINKEL

JUVENILE suspects in Turkey are being routinely tortured and detained in adult prisons, says a report issued yesterday in Istanbul by the American-based human rights group, Helsinki Watch.

The report documents nine cases and refers to many other reported instances of what the group's executive director, Jeri Laber, describes as "shocking violations of both Turkish and international law".

These include allegations that police used truncheons and applied electric shocks to genitals to extract confessions from children aged between 12 and 17.

The report will now be presented to ministers in Turkey's new coalition government and to Suleyman Demirel, the prime minister, one of whose election pledges was "to make the walls of police stations as transparent as glass".

Ms Laber, who first met Mr Demirel when he was under house arrest after the 1980 military coup, said that she was "pleased by the present government's serious intent to eradicate human rights abuse. Haldun Ozgen, head of Turkey's own Human Rights Foundation, said from Ankara that he believed in the present government's sincerity, which has included the creation of a human rights ministry.

"Unfortunately there is nothing either in the volume of complaints nor in the nature of their seriousness to suggest that the situation is getting better," he said.

Mr Ozgen said that there have been no recent allegations of torture being used against children. The Helsinki Watch report refers to cases documented before the Turkish election, including that of Nermin Alkan, a secondary schoolgirl who was detained for placing an anti-war poster in her school corridor at the start of the Gulf war a year ago.

It is Ms Alkan's remark that there was "nothing unusual" in the way she was blindfolded and beaten in the notorious Cayirpasa headquarters of the political section of the Istanbul police, which gives the report its subtitle.

The report, the ninth to have appeared about Turkey, carries particular influence with the American Congress and State Department. Ms

Laber and the report's co-sponsor Jonathan Panton, president of New York City's New School, said that children were not singled out for torture in Turkey but were victims of the general absence of police accountability. Many observers believe that it is difficult for any government to "call Turkey's security forces to heel while they are engaged in a fight with left-wing urban guerrillas and Kurdish separatists."

"Nothing Unusual: The Torture of Children in Turkey" is available from the Publications Department, Human Rights Watch, 485 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10017, price \$7.00.

Krajina hints at end to impasse

FROM TIM JUDAH IN KIN

MARRACK: Goulding, the United Nations troubleshooter, yesterday began a determined diplomatic offensive here to try to break the political deadlock currently blocking the deployment of a full-scale UN peacekeeping force in Croatia.

Mr Goulding, UN under-secretary-general for special political affairs, arrived by helicopter in the capital of Croatia's breakaway Serb enclave of Krajina in the afternoon and immediately began talks with Milan Babic, the enclave's leader. "During a break, Dr Babic said: 'This is a big step forward. What I got from Mr Goulding is respect for Mr Krajina's respect for Mr Goulding'."

Before leaving Belgrade Mr Goulding met Branko Kostic, Yugoslavia's acting president, and Goran Hadzic, the leader of Serb enclaves in eastern and central Croatia who said that the talks had been "extremely satisfactory". Mr Hadzic's words and the up-beat mood of Dr Babic suggested that a compromise might be in the making which could break the deadlock.

Under the terms of the plan brokered by Cyrus Vance, the UN's special envoy, a peacekeeping force will be deployed if the present ceasefire holds. The ceasefire was signed by the Croatian government and military, the Yugoslav army and the government of Serbia. But Dr Babic and other Krajina leaders object to several of the agreement's clauses and say they were in any event not party to it.

Under the UN plan, the Yugoslav army is to withdraw from Krajina and thousands of local reservists are to be demobilised and, hand, in their arms. UN troops are to be "spotted" around Krajina and "not deployed" on the frontline as demanded by the authorities of the self-proclaimed "Serbian Republic of Krajina", who point out that if Zagreb demanded the withdrawal of the UN troops, they would be exposed to attack.

Before yesterday's Kinin talks began, Lazar Maticura, Krajina's minister of information, said he was pessimistic about the chances of the deadlock being broken. He said that the government of Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian president, and the leadership of the Yugoslav army were attempting to force Krajina to comply with the agreement against its will and that he doubted if local soldiers would give up their arms.

French fall willing victims to allure of sex and seduction

For a couple apparently taking out their old age pensions, Jean and Violette certainly got by in style: a fine house in the most chic district of Bordeaux, a gleaming Mercedes in the garage, one holiday villa at nearby Arcachon, another on the Spanish coast. Neighbours would often wonder how they managed it, and now their secret is out — for some years they had been running a successful *maison close*, or upmarket brothel.

When the Bordeaux vice squad finally raided the premises, close by the city's beautiful Grand Theatre, they encountered the resident cast of seven prostitutes plus an elderly doorman. The ladies testified freely that Madame Violette, who is 61, ran a clean, strict house, forbidding clients to smoke and coming down hard on bad language from her perch on a high chair in the entry hall.

Mme Violette's indignant denials were somewhat undermined by her accounts, in which every transaction was minutely recorded down to the last minute and the last franc. She was also at a loss to explain how a Renault pensioner could have accumulated the funds discovered in half a dozen bank accounts and safe deposit boxes around the country (a prudent soul, she also invested in gold bullion and the Louis d'or coins that French peasants used to hide inside the mattress).

Pierre, a retired functionary pushing 70, would say no more than that he had known what was going on. Unimpressed, the police charged him with the same offence as his wife, *proxenetism*: roughly, living off immoral earnings.

At every turn in the *astreaire* of Paris, the perfect oval face of Jane March, late of Pinner, Middlesex, peers out from billboards advertising the hottest new film in town, *L'Amant*. Adapted from the autobio-

graphical novel in which Marguerite Duras relates her seduction, aged 15 and still at school in 1920s Saigon, by a handsome Chinese businessman, it has opened to saturation media coverage of the 19-year-old working-class girl from "a drab suburb of London".

With 12 pages of *Paris Match* devoted to her life and times and a discreet display of flesh during the explicit seduction scene, Jane has easily overshadowed press coverage of this week's haute couture shows. *Le Figaro* also gave her the best part of its back page while *Le Journal du Dimanche* went so far as to feature little Miss Unknown and lover in a rude cartoon.

Much of the film is harmless tosh about Jane's supposedly humble background — we are asked to believe that she had never before seen napkins and a crisp white tablecloth in a restaurant — but Jean-Jacques Annaud, the director, seems



Femme fatale: Jean-Jacques Annaud directing Jane March and Tony Leung in his film *The Lover*, based on a steamy book by Marguerite Duras

most concerned with dropping smirking hints about what really went on during the sex scenes.

Without saying so much, he apparently wants us to believe that Jane and her

leading man, Tony Leung, actually made love while the cameras were rolling.

The French are more pessimistic about what 1992 holds for them than any other citizens of the Eu-

ropean Community. A new poll found that only 25 per cent look forward without misgivings, against 58 per cent in Britain, where optimism flourishes more bravely than anywhere else.

Priests among unmasked secret police informers

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

THREE thousand evangelical priests, first division footballer and a member of the Social Democratic party's central committee, were unmasked yesterday as former East German informers.

Last week, Josef Duchac, the Christian Democratic prime minister of Thuringia, and three members of his cabinet resigned because of suspicions that they had helped the Stasi. A similar cloud is now hanging over Manfred Stolpe, the once highly respected SPD prime minister of Brandenburg.

People in all walks of life are being forced to resign, suffer public humiliation or watch their families break up as details emerge of their contacts with the secret police. Since the start of the year, when the six million Germans with Stasi dossiers were

first granted access to their files, nobody is above suspicion.

"All offenders are victims at the same time," according to Joachim Gauck, head of the special commission set up to investigate former informers and agents. "Many victims are at the same time culprits or potential culprits."

Herr Gauck, a protestant pastor from Rostock, on whom the Stasi had a very detailed dossier, has told people that it could be painful or even dangerous for them to look up their files. He is worried about the social consequences if the thousands of small informers are ostracised by the rest of society. At the same time he expects it will take his 1,000-strong staff a decade to wade through all the papers to separate the more innocent from serious informers.

More than 80,000 people have so far applied to see their personal file and the number is growing daily. Many have been stunned by the number of friends or relatives who needlessly supplied details about them.

Gerd Poppe, a former leading dissident who is now a Bundestag member, was horrified to find that his closest contacts had been prepared to hand over information to the Stasi machine without inhibition. "There can be no question of their having been forced to submit reports," he said. "The reports always contained much more than they might have had to write."

He also claims that informers are lying when they say they were only reporting facts which harmed nobody. He has studied most of the 50 file boxes devoted to his activities and says he is convinced that every report was meant to harm somebody.

One reason for opening the files was that this would encourage informers to come forward and own up in a way which would purge bad feeling. This has not happened, Herr Poppe says.

Models against the West

Peking: China's first full-time secondary school course for fashion models is not just a gallery of pretty faces. Its founding father says that he sees it as a counterweight to the West.

Lu Mu, the headmaster, said his students were being trained as a vanguard against encroaching spiritual pollution from the West. "They are not only going to be fashion models," he said. "They are going to be the models of the people in moral standards."

The all-girl modelling department enrolled 23 students after screening 300 applicants who were tested for uniformity of appearance — height, weight, good skin, shape of face and feet, and size of nose. (Reuters)

Bar affront

Helsinki: Finnish police are looking into new topless bars to check whether they affront decency laws. People in the southern town of Mikkeli said they wanted action under a criminal code providing for six months imprisonment for sexual indecency offences. (Reuters)

Thai Disney

Bangkok: The American Walt Disney Company is considering building a multi-billion-dollar amusement park in Thailand, a government official said. The project would involve between \$3.2 billion (£1.77 billion) and \$4 billion and would occupy a site of approximately 8,000 acres. (AFP)

Poppy chop

Diamantina, Colombia: In a campaign officials admit is ineffective, hundreds of policemen with machetes have descended on mountain jungles to whack away poppy flowers and eradicate the raw material used for heroin. So far, they have destroyed 1,267 acres. (AP)

Wider view

Peking: (AFP) Ownership of television sets in China, a perk of the privileged few only 10 years ago, is now enjoyed by more than 185 million, a communications minister was quoted as saying. (AFP)

Indonesians engineer award for Thatcher

The Association of Indonesian Engineers plans to present a 1992 honorary fellowship award to Margaret Thatcher, its chairman said yesterday. Abubakar Bakrie said Mrs Thatcher would be the first international figure to receive the annual award, to be presented in early September. Mr Bakrie said the association considered Mrs Thatcher as a chemical engineer who rose to success as a world leader.

Norwegian prime minister Gro Harlem Brundtland and Japanese environment agency chief, Shozaburo



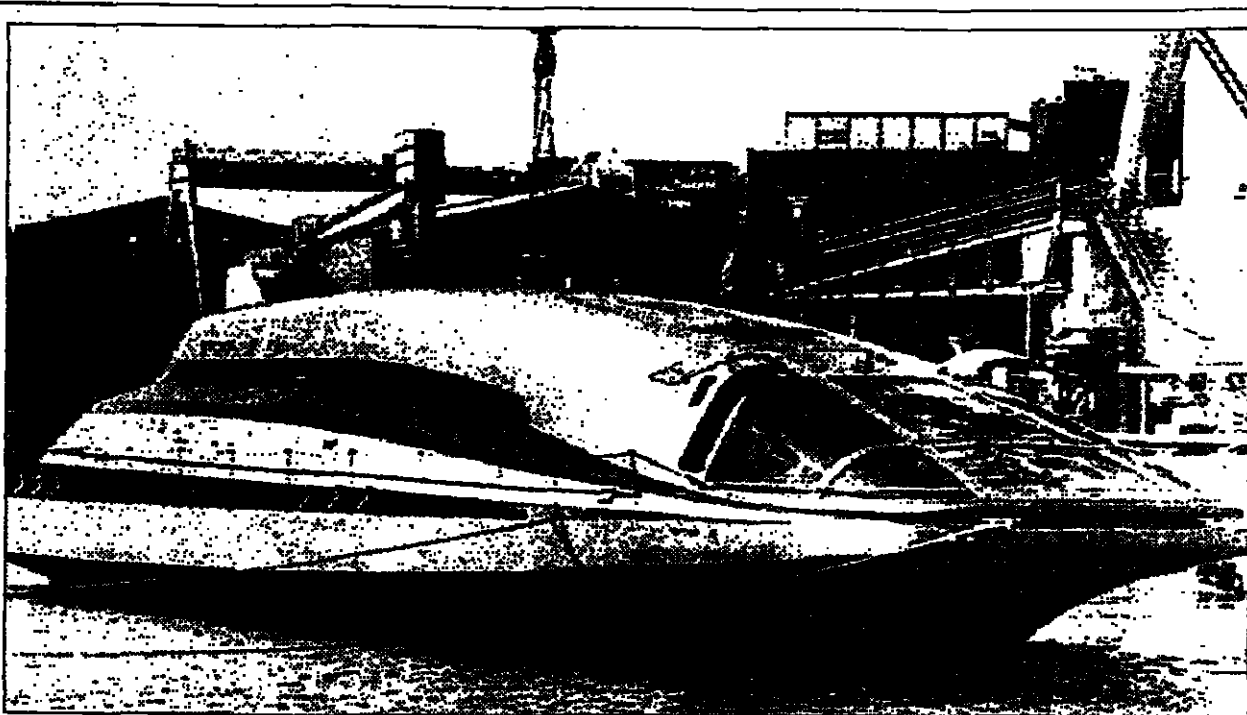
Japan builds water jet ship

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

JAPAN yesterday launched the first ship to be powered by superconducting magnets. The 150-ton Yamato 1, looking like a cross between a whale and a space rocket, entered the waters of the port of Kobe watched by a small crowd.

The experimental ship, which has taken the Japanese Ship and Ocean Foundation seven years to build, and cost £22 million, uses superconducting electromagnetic propulsion. In theory, this could produce speeds close to 100 knots, though Yamato 1 — named after a Japanese battleship sunk in the second world war — will achieve no more than eight knots. At speeds greater than that, the coil expands and heats up, destroying its superconducting properties.

The ship is propelled by a water jet driven by electromagnetic methods. Superconducting coils cooled to four degrees above absolute



Magnet power: the world's first boat driven by superconductor launched by the Japanese at Kobe

zero surround a duct through which sea water flows. Electrodes immersed in the water create a current running at right angles to the magnetic flux. By the rules of electromagnetism, a force is induced in the conductor — which in this case is the water — driving it backwards through the duct. The water jet drives the ship forward.

"This kind of ship should be better at high speed,

where propellers don't work so well," said Kensaku Imaichi, director of the foundation and emeritus professor of Osaka University. The ship should be silent and relatively pollution-free.

"The first thing is to show that it works," said Setsuo Takezawa, general manager of the electromagnetic propulsion ship division of the foundation, an organisation formed by Japan's big

shipbuilders, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Hitachi Zosen and Mitsui Engineering and Shipbuilding.

The launching was postponed from last summer. Mr Takezawa emphasised that development was difficult and still at an early stage. "Our schedule is uncertain," he said. "If this kind of thing were simple, everyone would do it."

The ship uses "old generation" superconductors

made of niobium and tantalum, cooled by liquid helium. Most of the space on board is occupied by the diesel-engine generators, but it will carry ten people when sea trials begin later this year. Superconductors that operate at higher temperatures could be applied to the ship's successors.

Sumimoto have designed a small container ship powered by the same system.

Vladivostok scents heady air of progress

LOCALS like to compare it with San Francisco. True, there is no Golden Gate Bridge and no militant gay community. But Vladivostok certainly has enough hills to lift its head and shoulders above the rest of the Russian provinces.

The key to one of the richest yet least developed parts of the former Soviet Union, the once-closed port is hoping to lead Russia's Pacific rim into the 21st century.

After decades in which it was strictly off-limits to foreigners without a special invitation, Vladivostok has been formally open to all-comers from the start of the year. A Vietnamese freighter carrying steel to nearby South Korea was the first foreign ship into harbour on January 1.

City fathers hope it will be followed not just by other such vessels but also by investors from Asia and beyond keen to take advantage of the region's treasure house of

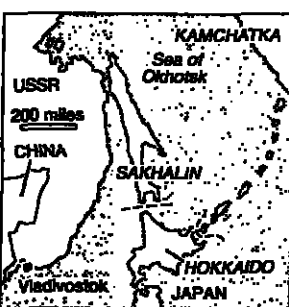
Peter Conradi reports on the beautiful port which once housed the Soviet eastern fleet and is now planning to lead Russia's Pacific rim into a buoyant modern future

minerals, energy and fish.

Valery Butkov, a former military lawyer recently appointed President Yeltsin's envoy, tempers the city's typical optimism with caution. "We are ready to co-operate with anyone," he said in his office overlooking the port.

"But it must be mutually advantageous and must help us to develop. We do not want foreigners just coming here and exploiting our resources."

People went east for adventure and to make their fortunes. Vladivostok, founded in 1860 as a base for the Pacific fleet, rapidly evolved into an important commercial port and regional centre. But things began to go sour after the revolution. When the



Red Army marched back in November 1922, they enforced a regime which would turn the region into an armed fortress and virtual colony to be looted at will by Moscow, some 5,000 miles and seven time zones to the west. The fleet, the reason why Vladivostok was closed for so many years, still dominates today.

Even the civil port in the centre of town is filled with warships moored incongruously alongside freighters. More than 90 per cent of industry, too, remains controlled by Moscow.

Just weeks after the official opening, there are already the first small signs of progress: an Italian company has just completed a lavish renovation of the port-side station which lies at the end of the Trans-Siberian railway. The South Koreans have started work on a giant hotel and business centre to attract foreign firms.

The Australians are also in town. By undercutting competitors the port chief, Mikhail Robkanov, is confident of attracting large shippers to his harbour, which is soon to be privatised, and is busy learning English at evening classes to cope with the boom.

However, Mr Butkov and his colleagues realise only too well that their new partners to

the east will prove just as rapacious as their old colonial masters in Moscow. Judging by the number of visiting official delegations now in the city, the Japanese are particularly interested; the South Koreans are close behind.

For all its charm, Vladivostok remains a Russian city like any other, with all the attendant problems from crumbling infrastructure to empty shops and galloping inflation. Any foreign businessman unfortunate enough to end up in one of the city's two best hotels will find a telephone capable of calling only as far as the next room and a restaurant which serves only crab and Siberian dumplings — for breakfast as well as lunch and dinner.

"Our city is beautiful but poor," said Vladimir Ivanov, a former merchant seaman, sitting patiently on the frozen-over bay and fishing through a hole he has just cut in the thick ice. "Soon, it will be beautiful and rich, too."

Chocoholics munch on towards a sweeter tomorrow

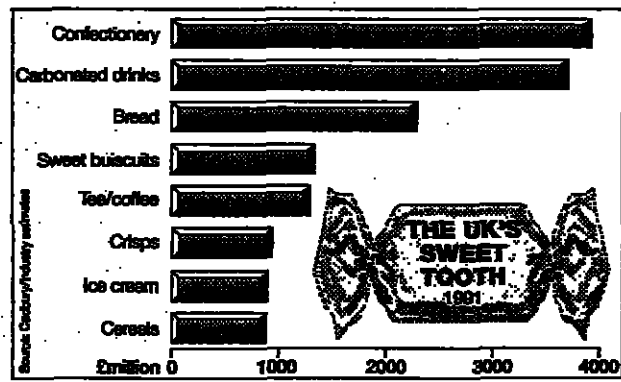
BY ALISON ROBERTS

WILLY Wonka would have been proud of the British last year: they ate more than half a million tonnes of chocolate, more than ever before.

Although the Europeans turn their noses up at British chocolate and sneer at its soft texture and sweetness, we consume more chocolate than any EC country and ate 13lb more per head last year than the Spanish, the most abstemious chocolate eaters.

British manufacturers successfully defended their chocolate when the EC requested that it be renamed "vegallate" in 1984. Cadbury, the biggest purveyor of chocolate in Britain, counters the chocolate snobs by arguing that the extra fat is as exotic as the cocoa beans and is called such names as African shea, Indian sal and Malaysian palm.

The average British consumer spent 93p on roughly four chocolate bars every week last year, which also saw a boom in the number of other foods targeting the sweet-toothed. John Taylor, marketing director of Cadbury, said: "The consumer can now buy ice-cream products, chilled desserts, liqueurs, drinks, biscuits and cakes carrying familiar brand names from the world of



chocolate." Researchers say that the market is bottomless and promise more sickly treats for 1992.

The three main manufacturers, Cadbury, Nestlé/Rowntree and Mars, account for more than 80 per cent of the sales. Cadbury, whose factories churned out 66,000 Creme Eggs, 12,500 chocolate buttons and 1,600 Wispa bars every minute last year, claims that sales were worth more than those of bread, tea, coffee and any other snack food.

In many respects, 1991 was a dietician's nightmare. Trebor Bassett reported that consumption of sweets soared and that adults ate more sweets than children. Alan Palmer, of Trebor Bassett, said: "Research indicates that brand heritage does still exist with more traditional brand

names which have in the past been overshadowed."

Wilkinson's pontefract cakes, gobstoppers and liquorice allsorts hark back to a gentler past. Around 24 million jelly babies in various E-number flavours were produced each week in 1991. The sweets began life as peace babies, produced to celebrate the end of the first world war, and were reintroduced in their present form in 1953.

In 1909, it took Charles Gordon Maynard a great deal of perseverance to convince the Maynard sweet company to produce his recipe for wine gums. The company's Methodist founder disagreed with the promotion of what seemed to be an alcoholic sweet. Eighty-two years later, wine gums were the eleventh best-selling sweet in the UK.

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Woodrow Wyatt

Welcoming back the trade union barons

The core of Mrs Thatcher's union reforms was giving union members secret ballots on strikes and on the election of union executives. Labour would not dare to make a frontal attack on this long-delayed democracy in the unions. But there are many ways of skinning a cat. Labour has furiously published its plans in obscure documents which it hopes few will examine. Labour would return to union leaders much of their lost power, make strikes easier and abolish the new right of employers to stop illegal strikes by application to the courts. Labour has always opposed union democracy. When, in 1956, on *Panorama* and in press articles, I was a principal participant in preventing a communist takeover of the engineers' union and exposing communist ballot-rigging in the electricians' union, I innocently thought Labour would be pleased. On return to the Commons in 1959 as a Labour MP, I was shunned by the trade union group with whom I had once been friendly, and was attacked for washing Labour's dirty linen in public. The TUC General Council refused to act on the solid evidence I presented of wholesale fraudulent communist manipulation of the electricians' ballots. The court case of 1961, which eventually disqualified the communist barons of the electricians, increased my unpopularity.

The ending of the power of union leaders to act against their members' wishes emerged from the shenanigans in these two unions. In the Commons in 1983, John Smith described the new secret ballots as "irrelevant effrontery". Irrelevant? On the same day, Tony Blair, now the shadow employment secretary, called properly run union ballots "a scandalous and undemocratic measure against the trade union movement". Labour is dependent on the unions for roughly three-quarters of its income, and for a still higher proportion of its election finances. Too many union leaders (some of whom are still questionably elected) want to recover their undemocratic control over their members and the freedom to order strikes, as well as a significant say at No 10. This last has been guaranteed to them in Labour's policy document *Opportunity Britain*. Bryan Gould has explained "the next Labour government will naturally wish to bring the trade union movement back into the mechanisms of decision-making on economic policy".

Labour has already, but as unobtrusively as possible, stated that the courts' power to seize union funds when they flout the law would be ended, although a law-breaking company's assets will remain vulnerable. Without this vital weapon, the new laws protecting the public and industry against overweening union power would become inoperable. Officially, Labour intends to make it impossible for employers to obtain court orders to prevent unlawful strikes. There would still be strike ballots, but they need not be until after a strike had started. Sympathy strikes of employees far from the site of a dispute would once more be legal, enabling union leaders to cripple the country. The limit on the number of pickets would be removed, and the notorious flying pickets would be back in business. Even previous Labour governments permitted employers to replace strikers. Now Labour is pledged to make that illegal.

The number of strikes is now at its lowest since 1935. Union leaders are currently quiescent, mainly because of the new legislation but partly so as not to embarrass Labour as the election approaches. If Labour won, such inhibitions would disappear, and with strikes made much easier, union leaders would have a field day. Foreign companies would leave Britain and multitudes of jobs would be lost.

Voters should know the whole, grisly truth about a candidate's philandering, declares Janet Daley

Sex is a political issue

What a good smirk we have about American prudery when yet another political career goes down the tubes thanks to a private peccadillo. Waiting smugly to see whether Governor Clinton is consigned to the same professional graveyard as Gary Hart despite denying the allegations, worldly Europeans murmur incredulously about how seriously these matters are taken in the New World. To the French, who find the idea of a political leader without a mistress scarcely credible, the fuss is bewildering.

In Britain, the extent to which a man's sexual behaviour is relevant to his fitness for office is a matter of the dignity with which he conducts himself. Cecil Parkinson fell into ignominy not just because he had an affair, but because a pregnant woman alleged that he had raped her. What attracted odium was not so much the liaison, but the suspicion that he had behaved like a cad, which is, when you think about it, a fairly sound reason for disgrace.

If the question that needed

answering about Governor Clinton (or any other public figure) were not the simplistic "Has he ever slept with anyone other than his wife?" but the larger one, "How does this man treat other people?", would a moral inquisition seem so out of place?

We may snigger superciliously about America's gaucheries, but is there not something repugnant (even frightening) about a man who is a compulsive and callous womaniser being in possession of enormous world power? John Kennedy, who is reputed to have had intercourse with three women other than his wife on his inauguration day, springs to mind. We now know that he also shared a mistress with a Mafia boss and skirted disaster constantly with his indiscriminate appetites. One actress sardonically described her carnal interlude with him as "the most exhilarating three minutes of my life".

His brother Ted neglected to report the drowning of a girl in his car, so afraid was he of exposing his life-style. In the case of the Kennedys, the most notoriously promiscuous politicians in recent history, there seems to be a constant refrain of crudeness and exploitation.

This is not to say that a man who is devoted to his wife and family will necessarily be a trustworthy or effective public figure. Richard Nixon and Jimmy Carter (who described himself as being guilty of adultery only "in his heart") were disastrous leaders. Nixon has been, by all accounts, a faithful husband and good father, which in no way



Standing by her man: Mrs Hillary Clinton

prevented him being unscrupulous enough to get himself removed from office. Indeed, there is a recognisable type of man who behaves toughly in his working life while treating his family with unfailing tenderness. Norman Mailer once said, commenting on Nixon's children, "No man who produces two daughters like that can be all bad". Indeed, the families of such men are often cruelly bewildered by the public criticism because it seems so out of character with the men they feel they know.

Is there a clear line between public and private decency? Even those who take no serious notice of biblical commandments have some sense that relentless philandering is an alarming idiosyncrasy. Most employers, considering a candidate for a responsible position, would think twice if the testimonial from his present firm included the observation that he chased everything in a skirt. And this reservation would arise not so much from priggishness as from an understanding that rampant lasciviousness is a 'destructive force': it is likely to create instability in the workplace, encourage disaffection (not to say distraction) among people who should be working as a team.

What is more, such a pattern of behaviour suggests that a man is out of control: that he is a prisoner of his own impulses. In the case of politicians such as Gary Hart, who was caught out in the midst of a primary contest, one is left with the impression that they cannot forestall their gratifica-

tions even for the duration of a campaign. (At least in the case of Governor Clinton the rumours seem all to be old stories.) Quaint though it may seem, marital propriety is not irrelevant as a measure of qualification for major office. Fidelity is, after all, a form of loyalty and a sign of self-control, neither of which are inconsiderable virtues in public life.

For a man (or a woman, although that would be a different kettle of fish altogether) to be revealed as an adulterer is probably not irrevocably damaging, even in the United States. The politicians who have come spectacularly unstuck in recent years have not been crucified for, say, a single long-running affair with a sympathetic woman. What is fatal is a history of squalid blim-blo-chasing: the stream of beauty queens, "starlets" and airhead glamourpusses who become an accretion of power. What people ask of their politicians is only what they would hope for from their neighbours: that they conduct their lives with a degree of seaminess and human sensitivity.

The importance of being Boris

The world must learn to take Yeltsin more seriously, says Mary Dejevsky

This week the world is using the Middle East peace talks as a pretext for flocking to Boris Yeltsin's door, and Russia — bumbling, confused and inexplicably minus Boris Yeltsin — is welcoming the chance to present its new international face. This burst of diplomatic activity amounts to a belated recognition of reality by the West. The disintegration of the Soviet Union, symbolically completed with the descent of the red flag on December 25, presented a challenge which most Western diplomacy, British and American included, has proved pitifully ill-equipped to handle.

True, it was a challenge without precedent. The artefact that was the Soviet Union fell to pieces probably more rapidly, more completely and leaving behind more global implications than any previous empire, whether the calculation is the six years in which Mr Gorbachev was in power or the four months since the August coup. Yet the end was not unexpected. Every possible indicator had shown the Soviet Union to be in steep decline. Republics and regions were flying apart. Even so, for most of the past year, the West continued to back Mr Gorbachev and his idea of a new, but still centralised union, at the expense of any emerging leader or alternative scheme — even though it was already clear that the republics were united by little more than resentment.

This public and very personal support from Washington and Paris and — to a lesser extent — London explains Mr Gorbachev's abject disappointment when the American State Department clumsily let him know that a democratic vote for independence in Ukraine could hardly pass unnoticed. There were tantrums about the break-up of the country, nuclear proliferation and anarchy, but then everything went quiet — and suddenly the Union was no more.

Through the last months of 1991, the West's diplomatic calculations seemed to combine fear of the unknown, greater fear of instability, and sound diplomatic convention. Few remember a world in which there was a Russian empire rather than a Soviet Union; Yugoslavia's agonies were on all our television screens, and Soviet diplomacy had done its utmost to draw the parallels. Anyhow, diplomacy requires that foreign ministries deal with those in power, not with opposition.

Britain, America and the others went almost as far as they dared, if belatedly, in paying calls on Mr Yeltsin and his team when their ministers came to Moscow, and in visiting the republics, by-passing Moscow. They received Russians and Ukrainians and Kazakhs and others warmly enough in their capitals. But they were, and remain, unwilling to grasp the magnitude and the finality of what has been happening. The West, by and large, is still dealing with the former union, not with aspiring independent states. In every significant area of activity, in debt management, arms control and diplomacy, it is prolonging the union's death throes, not looking to the future.

Debt rescheduling, managed by the Group of Seven industrialised nations, showed the way. Since last autumn, successive G7 delegations have visited Moscow. They have obtained a collective agreement on debt repayment by the primitive expedient of banging heads together. Officials from the grievously indebted republics were brought together and told, in effect, not to come out — and on no account to ask for more — until they had agreed how to share the debts and repay them. This may have been a useful exercise for frivolous borrowers, but it was no way to encourage almost independent states.

Something similar threatens to happen with arms control. There is much whispering in the Western camp about the former Soviet



Taking a salute: the West has been slow to adapt to the new power structure of Yeltsin's Russia

Union's non-ratification of two landmark treaties, limiting strategic-range nuclear weapons (Start) and reducing conventional forces in Europe (CFE), and about possible breaches of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. Even though the disintegration of the former Soviet Union's army of 3.75 million is well advanced, the West appears to have made little attempt to deal separately, where appropriate, with each republic and define its obligations. Even

solid and insistent statements by, for instance, Ukraine, that it wishes to become nuclear-free as soon as possible have been needlessly scorned.

In both cases, debts and arms control, Western negotiators might do better to make their own calculations and deal separately with each republic. Tempers would be cooler, trust would be greater, and individual republics might be inclined to give more rather than less — if only to get the

other republics off their backs and so as to be dealing as states rather than provinces.

The consideration of national dignity applies equally in diplomacy, where most Western states continue in their old ways and worry about the money to be spent on new embassies. Britain, in common with many others, has decided to establish embassies in the Baltic (to right an old wrong) and in Ukraine — which, after all, has a population no smaller than

Britain's — and to redesignate the ambassador in Moscow as ambassador to Russia, and all the other "independent" states.

This is a pity. The volatile trans-Caucasus and Central Asia are being lumped into an empire they are trying to leave behind. Some, it is true, are still in desperate need of old economics, but that is no reason to treat them even now as part of the former Soviet Union. Could not the ambassadors to Turkey, Iran, India and Mongolia not oversee the republics that adjoin these countries? Like it or not, the regional reabsorption of these republics — economically and culturally — has already begun.

Many argue that the disintegration has already gone further and faster than is sensible. They would say, with Mr Gorbachev, that a transitional period is needed before the republics are "ready" for full independence. When we all finally judge that they are ready, they will have cemented their loyalties with others who were more welcoming: with Turkey, Iran and China.

In a Europe, however, one country quietly played its diplomatic cards with almost unerring sureness and flair. Italy, the land of Machiavelli, was relinquishing its ties with Mr Gorbachev as early as last May, cultivating the rougher types of the new Russia, and waiting for the end. By the autumn, its foreign ministry was reviewing all bilateral treaties to see how they could be amended to apply to independent republics. It was a few days' work on a computer. By the time the red flag came down, the Italians had transferred their credits smoothly from the Soviet Union to Russia and had nestled close to the heart of Russian power.

It is perhaps easier for medium-sized countries to play diplomatic games like these with success. Unlike the United States, they are not always in the public eye. Their traditions may be more flexible than those of Britain or France. In the extraordinary circumstances of the past year, nobody could get everything right, but the Italians have certainly done better than most.



...and moreover CRAIG BROWN

My dearest Bernadette. Did you see us on television again on Sunday night? Did you? Did you? By now you will know that things have gone badly wrong. Oh, Bernadette, my love, my one true love, what has happened? Have you read the reviews? Before it began, our love affair was billed as a major drama, an imaginative triumph, an intensely moving evocation of overwhelming passion. What went wrong? Now that it is all over — is it all over? — we find ourselves outcasts from decent society, ostracised for the rest of time for no reason other than our complete and utter preposterousness.

But there must be a place in any society for preposterous characters, a little nook where they can talk in clichés and run towards each other in slow motion, for ever and ever. What shall we do now, my love? I hear tell that there is a drama series in Australia which is looking for a retired bank manager going to seed. But how I wish I could shake free of those chains! Oh, to be a living, breathing human being rather than a cliché TV bank manager unable to cope with real emotion!

I look forward to an early reply to my communication of the 7th inst. Yours faithfully, A. Powell (Manager, Reid, Grog to Sd.)

manner ever before. What I say is, if that's what they think they can't have read the rest of Bragg's novels.

"But how could I ever forget our nights of passion? That time you said, 'Yes, yes!' and I said, 'Oooh! There! Oooh!' and the director said, 'Bend the knee slightly love! Super! Oh, yes, my darling, we made love like no other couple has done before.'"

"You ask is it all over? Sometimes the truth is hard, very hard. But here goes. I looked in next week's *Radio Times*. I can't see you pencilled in for next Sunday. There's a nature series instead. So it looks like we're high and dry. "Perhaps if we got back together, they'd give us another series. It's a thought, isn't it? Frankly, I watched that wife of yours dying in the hospital last Sunday and I'm pretty sure she was faking it. I'll never forget how the scene went. She was in bed with her eyes shut. You said: 'Cup of tea, love?' She opened her eyes and said: 'Thank you, darling. Good luck.' And then she closed her eyes and played dead. You seemed to fall for it. "But I know her type. She'd read the reviews of the first two episodes and she was out to do a runner before the end of the third. That way she probably thought she could start a new life somewhere, perhaps in a situation comedy. But maybe if we could trace her, we could all get back together and they'd give us a few more episodes. That we could prove that our love transcends cliché. Our love

is like a mountain stream. It's a forest fire. It's a bird in flight. But it's more, much more than that! It's a forest stream in flight from a mountain, a mountain flying from a very wet bird, a forest bird with a mountain perched on its head sitting in a stream. Love Bernadette."

"My dearest Bernadette, I can date it to a precise moment. I was coming out of a pub on the South Bank. I had gone in to enjoy a couple of glasses of sherry. 'Sorry sir,' the bartender had said, 'but we don't serve stereotypes here.' The street was empty as I came out. I walked 11 paces and then all but crashed into that man. It was Bragg, my scourge, my torment, my creator. It was as if a bonfire which had been built up without my being aware of it had suddenly ignited. Ignited by a mountain stream."

"You of all people," I said to him. I sensed that he recognised me. You know who I am, don't you? I added. "You're an idea in my head," he said shiftyly. An idea I have for an intensely moving evocation of overwhelming passion, a brave and searingly honest portrait of vibrantly erotic love. "That's what he promised. Oh, yes. And now it's all in shreds. I've no job, my girlfriend's a fantasy, my wife's playing dead and the critics don't believe a word of it. Where on earth can a character like mine feel wanted? Yours faithfully, A. Powell."

"Andrew, my love. Emmerdale Farm? Love Bernadette."

Stagestruck for a century

DAME Gwen Frangon-Davies, the last living link with Victorian theatre, who died peacefully yesterday, two days after her 101st birthday, never ceased to amaze her friends.

Her neighbour and friend, Victor Pemberton, who produced the award-winning BBC *Omnibus* film about her in 1988, says: "She was essentially of the 20th century — all of it."

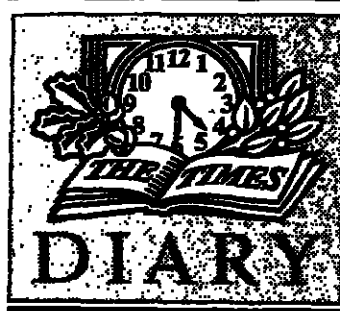
She was made a DBE only in the last birthday honours list after a persuasive campaign by some distinguished theatrical knights. She received a letter of congratulation from John Major, who was clearly delighted at the recommendation.

As a child, Dame Gwen saw Henry Irving act, was a protégée of Ellen Terry and later played Tess of the D'Urbervilles before Thomas Hardy at his Dorchester home, Max Gate.

She last appeared a month ago in the two-hour Christmas *Sherlock Holmes* episode. "Typically, although she only had a small part at the beginning of the film, she learned the whole of that huge script so that she understood the piece. She never lost that dedication," says Pemberton.

Her agent for 30 years, Larry Dalzell, says: "She was alert to the end, and had a truly phenomenal memory — she could still recite the whole of Juliet's part and did at her popular masterclasses, as well as a 14-year-old again — as well as being a professional to her fingertips, so that she was invaluable to young actors who genuinely sought her advice."

During the *Omnibus* programme, Dame Gwen, a long-standing Christian Scientist, was asked by Nigel Hawthorne if she



was nervous about dying: "My dear, I'm always nervous about doing something for the first time," she replied.

● Toasting Wittgenstein's biographer Ray Monk, the winner of the Duff Cooper Memorial Prize, at the Mayfair Hotel last night was a good cross section of London literati, but few of the philosopher's surviving disciples. Monk has still not been forgiven for joining the ranks of scholars who accept that Wittgenstein was homosexual, although his portrait rejects the allegations of promiscuity levelled by a previous biographer, the late W.W. Bartley III.

Women of substance

THE world's first economic summit for first ladies is to be held in Geneva next month, organised by a United Nations agency. The partners of some of the world's most powerful men will — against all international precedents — be expected to voice their own opinions. Most of them accepted their invitations only after consulting their spouses.

Those who have accepted include a gaggle of European queens, Fabiola of Belgium and Sophia of Spain, and the very proletarian Danuta Walesa from

Poland. Some will scoff at the idea of the first ladies, clad in their Christian Dior and expressing concern about their sisters toiling in the fields of the Third World. Already a protocol department has been set up to co-ordinate the really important issue: who should sit at the head of the top table?

● The Peak District National Park is appointing a new chief executive at a salary of £50,000 a year. The park, home of Kinder Scout and the famous trespass which established the right of the labourer to enjoy equal access with the land, clearly takes its egalitarian past very seriously. An advert has been placed in *The Peak Advertiser* — between an ad for a part-time home-help and another for a "sweeper-upper and assistant van driver".

Bully for you

SAFE in the knowledge that God is on both of their sides, the bishops of Manchester, Southwell, Oxford, and Bath and Wells are to



do battle on the hockey pitch with the Mothers' Union. When they bully off at Dean's Yard, Westminster, next month,

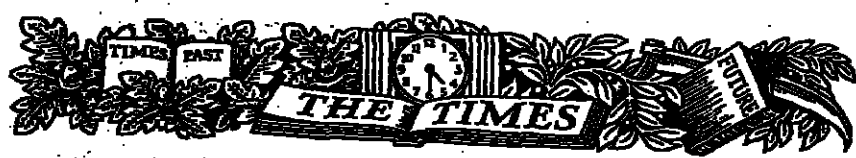
Below the belt

WHATEVER the outcome of the trial of heavyweight boxer Mike Tyson, one man is sure to be defeated. If he loses the case, Jeffrey Modest, the Marion County prosecutor and thus an elected official, faces political humiliation, charged with incompetence and publicly-mongering. If he wins, however, Modest risks losing the support of black voters.

Although the accusation of rape was made by a black woman, the trial is being seen as a white prosecution of a prominent black. A Tyson conviction would prove highly unpopular.

The local television anchorman is already in hot water. Carried away by the excitement on the steps of the Marion county courthouse yesterday he breezed: "This case is going to be real fun." After the commercials and a wave of protest, he re-appeared to recant... er, when I spoke about fun, I did not mean to imply that there was anything amusing about the offence of rape.

● Will the dictates of political correctness force the Washington Redskins, victors of the Super Bowl, to change their name? After their triumph over the Buffalo Bills on Sunday night, the American Indian Movement was demanding that the team make the change. Alternative suggestions are already in circulation. The football team needs a name that reflects what Washington is famous for, say the Indian campaigners. Washington Windbags is the favourite.



UNCIVIL SERVANTS

The Conservative party has an uneasy relationship with the public sector. For most of Margaret Thatcher's rule, the failings of public services were blamed on Labour, the party of nationalisation. The policy was to cure such evils by privatisation. Against the constant incantation of "private good, public bad", civil servants felt unloved and complained that the ideals of public service had been undermined. John Major saw his citizen's charter as a solution to both problems: poor public services and demoralised public-sector workers. But can the charter address the first without damaging the second?

Not if it is to be more than electoral public relations. After 13 years of Tory rule, Mr Major can no longer lay inefficiency in public service at the door of Labour (except in a few local councils). The Tories have long been party to the welfare state, both as architects and as custodians. Even when the welfare consensus notionally broke down with the arrival of Mrs Thatcher, it was not so much privatisation that improved the health, welfare, education and rail services — to name some candidates for charterism — as a combination of threatened competition, cash limits and regulation. Mr Major now realises that privatisation is not a sufficient condition for further improvement. If he has gone soft on privatisation, he must find some other way of bringing proper private-sector disciplines to bear on the public sector.

Yesterday's press conference suggested that too few ministers have any idea of what makes the private sector tick. A private company, officers redress for poor service because its interest is to do so. Satisfied customers return and spend more money, or the company goes bankrupt and the workers lose their jobs. Public bodies have no such incentive. Either they are monopolies or, as in health and education, the competition is so expensive as to be out of most people's reach. Incentive has to be imposed. Mr Major is therefore right to insist that standards of service be drawn up and redress be offered when those standards are not met. So far so good. But redress is expensive, as the Treasury keeps reminding him. To re-

strain the costs of the citizen's charter refunds will be so small as to be virtually worthless or the refunds will have to be curtailed. That can only be done by raising standards. So the official responsible for poor management leading to low standards will have to be held accountable like private-sector managers who bust budgets or produce constantly disgruntled customers. Ultimately, he or she must be sacked.

This is where the aims of Mr Major's charter conflict. On the one hand, he wants to improve the quality of the public services, and on the other, to reintegrate morale among civil servants. He and the Treasury are famously timid about confronting public sector unions. In many cases, the civil servants are the problem. Tucked into a job for life and insulated from competitive market forces, they have little incentive to take the charter seriously if they are not doing so already. Hence the lack of teeth is a real, not a hypothetical, shortcoming of this otherwise admirable innovation. If civil servants knew that they would suffer a pay cut or lose their job if that letter lurked in their in-tray for another day, things would improve overnight.

Francis Maude, the Treasury minister in charge of the charter, admitted yesterday that not a single civil servant had yet been disciplined. The charter was not meant to be "a punitive expedition", he said. Public servants "don't need to be bullied and hounded into giving good service; they want to give good service". Why, then, is the service still bad?

Performance-related pay may turn out to be the carrot that induces public officials to deliver a service good enough to rival the private sector. If not, ministers will need the use of a stick. Managers who consistently fail to deliver services of a suitable standard should be warned and, eventually, sacked. This will not initially do wonders for the morale of civil servants. But their morale should not be dependent purely on the security of their job and the prospect of an index-linked pension. As in the private sector, it should stem from the satisfaction of a job well done.

THE SICK MAN RECOVERS

No sooner has Germany begun to stretch its muscles across central Europe than another historical ghost is emerging to the south. Turkey not only boasts a vigorous growth rate, it is now actively intervening in the economies of its sickly neighbours.

Turkish politicians and businessmen are moving into the wasteland left by communism. Ayaz Mutallibov, the president of Azerbaijan, is the latest in a stream of visitors to Ankara from formerly Soviet Central Asia, as newly independent states discover their religious, linguistic and cultural links with Asia Minor. To the west, Turkey has returned to the territories of the Ottoman empire. The Balkans are being courted with Turkish aid and investment in support of Ankara's plans for a new Black Sea economic co-operation zone.

From Brussels, Turkey is still a developing country, far behind the economic and political development of the Community it would like to join. Seen from Bucharest or Tashkent, it is a dynamic regional power. The reason is twofold: communism's collapse and the EC's rebuff to Turkey's application for membership. Ankara has not turned its back on the EC, but Europeans have been discouraging, with politicians snidely asserting that only nations sharing Christendom's heritage could ever be members. The disintegration of the Soviet Union has now given Turks an alternative area of influence, among states eager for a secular democracy to set against fundamentalist regimes threatening their southern flank.

This appeal spreads beyond the 100 million ethnic Turks. Turkey's oldest and most bitter foe, Armenia, now sees its powerful neighbour as a window to the west. It has opened direct air links, encouraged cross-border trade and asked for help against Azerbaijani attacks on Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh. Others in the region also

see in Turkey's well-stocked shops, thriving agriculture and developing infrastructure a new Germany to pull them out of stagnation. Bulgaria, despite the communists' recent campaign against the country's ethnic Turks, is hoping for some of the money Turkish industry appears ready to invest abroad. So too are Serbia, Romania, and even Albania. Russia, once a large donor of aid to Turkey, is now hoping the generosity will be repaid. Moscow was effusive in its welcome last week for Hikmet Cetin, the Turkish foreign minister.

Pan-Turkism is an old dream that historically ended in bitterness and bloodshed. But reinforcing economic links and spreading the message of secular democracy are a far cry from the ethnic nationalism of past Turkish imperialism. Turkey has proved its democracy after several false starts. It knows the dangers of ethnic unrest and military intervention. Its new prime minister, Suleyman Demirel, is a veteran who seems ready to build on the economic and political reforms of President Ozal.

Despite a more liberal attitude to the Kurds, repression of them continues, with no little encouragement from Kurdish terrorists. Economic liberalisation has not yet reached the state sector. And Ankara is as intransigent as ever on Cyprus, apparently retreating even from last year's promises.

Yet Turkey is better placed to lead a new Ottoman "empire of influence" than was its sick ancestor. Its role in promoting regional stability where the West has little influence or experience could be invaluable. Its Muslim moderation is urgently needed to counter fundamentalism. Both before the Gulf war and afterwards its diplomatic footwork has been skilful. The West should recognise and support this new role for a country that from Roman times has held the balance of power between East and West.

SPACE ODDITY

Sergei to ground control. Sergei to ground control. Speak to me, if only to say *Do svidaniya*, au revoir, we shall meet again. That would be some reassurance.

I, Colonel Sergei Krikalev, Soviet cosmonaut, being marooned 200 miles above Earth in this dismal and increasingly leaky space station Mir, all the rest of the spaceship's company save one having abandoned ship, and myself increasingly sick and melancholic as I circle the globe 16 times a day, have become the Robinson Crusoe of the late 20th century.

Space is not remote at all. It is only ten hours' away, if I could point my trusty Lada vertically upwards from Moscow. But I feel more isolated than Crusoe on his Island of Despair. As my reason begins to master my despondency, I seek to comfort myself as well as I can and to set the good against the evil. The evil is that I am cast away upon a clapped-out spaceship with no immediate hope of recovery, and having to do continual maintenance work just to keep the thing in orbit. The good is that I am alive and warm, rather than starving and cold as many of my comrades must be down on Earth.

The evil is that I should have ended my flight in October, but am singled out and separated from all the world to be a solitaire. My body is changing shape, particularly around the ankles, my food is unbearably monotonous after 270 days. The good is that the supply rocket, Progress, arrived from Baikonur today with enough delectable dinners to keep me alive until March. I am eating better than my countrymen on Earth.

My communist party card has become an illegal document since I have been in space, because the political upheavals down on Earth have thrown our space programme and everything else into confusion. Boris Yeltsin, who I gather from the occasional guarded squawks and crackles from Earth, is now president of Russia, is even considering selling Mir to American capitalists. But we have a problem with our automatic docking system, which cannot line up the hatch with the rendezvous craft.

Since I flew to Mir in May with the British female cosmonaut, Helen Sharman, my salary has been steadily accumulating in my state savings account. However, the real value of my 600 roubles a month is falling so fast that space technicians and trainee cosmonauts at Star City, outside Moscow, went on strike yesterday in protest.

I sometimes get guarded replies to my plaintive appeals for information from below, and hear of startling coups and plots, the return and obsolescence of Gorbachev, the sudden collapse of the Soviet Union. But there may not be enough money or spare parts left in the successor regimes to send up another Progress rocket to save Mir. The whole space programme may fall apart as the former Soviet republics are engulfed in starvation and civil war.

Perhaps now that the Western media, so often vilified by our masters in the past, are taking an interest in my plight, I shall not be abandoned as a non-person, as I might have been five years ago. Sergei to BBC. Please come in.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Doubts about Trident independence

From Lord Kennet

Sir, Mr Archie Hamilton, minister of state for the armed forces, sees major "questions about Labour's defence proposals" (letter, January 20).

I and others left the Labour party when its defence policies went, as we saw it, round the bend. They have now come back, and it is the content of the Conservative government's defence policies that at present I find questionable.

Trident, Britain's "independent" strategic nuclear force, will not be independent.

1. Trident missiles are available to us at the whim of any president — there is no binding agreement with the United States as such.

2. The missiles are, beyond our control, designed and manufactured in the United States and are to be serviced there. In certain respects they will be covered by the Start agreement to which we are not a signatory.

3. The technology used in the submarines is to a significant degree American, and the assigning of them is probably under United States control — i.e., they may be assigned

to Nato, but probably not to the Western European Union.

4. Their targeting depends, to a significant degree, on information provided by the United States.

With US/EC relations moving as they are, will American presidents certainly continue wanting to provide and service Trident missiles for an EC member state when EC foreign and defence policy becomes more detached from the United States?

All these prospects may account for the government's determination not "now to depend solely on our submarine-launched system which would mean putting all our nuclear eggs in one basket for decades ahead", as Earl Howe, speaking for the government, put it in the House of Lords, on January 17.

The "sub-strategic" nuclear strike capability the government is now seeking seems to take on a new, and important, guise in the circumstances.

Yours etc,
WAYLAND KENNET,
House of Lords,
January 21.

Issues of devolution for Scotland

From Sir George Gardiner, MP for Reigate (Conservative)

Sir, The argument over Scottish devolution has always been obscured by fudging the fundamental issues, and alas your editorial, "Over-unionised" (January 20), persists with this fudge.

"An assembly in Edinburgh with extensive executive power would require an end to the over-representation of Scottish MPs at Westminster", you write. Really, is that all? Devolutionists have made clear over the past 20 years that they want a legislative assembly responsible for the laws that apply in Scotland. Your contention that a Scottish assembly could opt for higher taxation would seem to accept this.

If such an assembly were to come to pass, then Scottish MPs could hardly be allowed any say in the laws that apply over England and Wales. Thus, with the fudge eliminated, your sentence would read: "An assembly in Edinburgh with legislative power would require an end to Scottish MPs at Westminster voting on legislation applying to England and Wales."

By all means let us have a debate of Scottish devolution — yet again. But the Scots must understand that they cannot have their cake and eat it. If they wish to decide through an assembly the laws and taxation that apply in Scotland, then fair enough. But let no one delude them into thinking that they can then continue to influence the laws and taxation that apply to the English and Welsh.

Self-determination — to use your word — must apply equally.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE GARDINER,
House of Commons,
January 20.

From Dr James Wilkie

Sir, Writing on Scottish devolution Mr Michael Forsyth (article, January 21) ignores the broader dimensions. Fundamental restructuring is taking place all over Europe, not merely as a reaction to national aspirations, but also in order to adapt to the all-European structures which are now clearly emerging.

Against that background, the manner in which Scotland is governed at the moment is a travesty of democracy.

It is surprising that a minister should advance the selective and long-discredited argument that Scotland receives a net inflow of subsidies

from London, while ignoring the role played by Scotland's natural resources in the UK economy.

Yours etc,
JAMES WILKIE,
Pressgasse 21/8, 1040 Vienna,
January 22.

From Mr P. J. Barlow

Sir, Unlike many of those now calling for Scottish independence or for devolution, I actually live in Scotland. I have never heard one of my friends, neighbours or relatives express any desire for a change in Scotland's status within the UK. Those who mention the subject at all are horrified by the prospect of a tax-raising Scottish assembly.

The electoral handicap of the Scottish Tories is not their attachment to the Union, but their abject failure to attack and expose the weaknesses in the devolutionist case and, in particular, its financial implications.

Yours faithfully,
PETER BARLOW,
Annandale, Minard,
Inveraray, Argyll,
January 20.

From Mr J. I. Chisholm

Sir, Mr Michael Forsyth argues that Scotland receives more than its fair share of public expenditure on the basis of a formulation "which no longer reflects relative population levels".

The assumptions underlying the current English complaints of over-provision for the Scots is that the grant of public expenditure to Scotland should not be on the basis of the contribution to revenue made by Scotland but on new principles of per capita distribution.

Some may find it surprising that Conservative MPs are implicitly arguing in favour of such egalitarian and redistributive principles. At the least the principles underlying the current arrangements should be understood and criticism not based on incorrect assumptions.

I accept that the whole basis of the existing financial arrangements between England and Scotland could always be re-examined and indeed would need to be if a Scottish parliament is established. It does not follow automatically, however, that Scotland would be worse off under any such new arrangement.

Yours faithfully,
J. I. CHISHOLM,
22 Norman Avenue,
Twickenham, Middlesex,
January 22.

Ireland's politics

From Mr Patrick J. Roche and Dr Brian Barton

Sir, The widespread belief, cited by Edward Gorman in his articles of January 21 and 22, in "the historical inevitability of Britain's exit from Ireland" is based on a failure to understand at least two related realities of Irish politics: (a) the economics of Irish unification, and (b) the pragmatic partitionism of the Republic's electorate.

The Republic has currently a 20 per cent rate of unemployment and a national debt/GNP ratio of 115 per cent, which is one of the highest in Europe.

The concomitant poverty (at least one third of the population subsist on inadequate levels of social security) and high emigration (a minimum figure of 250,000 over the past decade) are indicators of what some Irish politicians are now prepared to call "70 years of failure". How could this economy incorporate Northern Ireland and leave Britain to depart (as envisaged by Mr Gorman) with an annual saving of £2 billion in subsidies?

Professor Tom Garvin has well stated a growing consensus of informed opinion in the Republic: If such an offer (of British withdrawal) were to be seriously and publicly made by the British government... it would have devastating effects on the Republic. The structure of the Dublin state is predicated on the unspoken assumption of indefinite continuance of partition ("Consensus in Ireland: Approaches and Reactions", 1988).

Library's future

From Mr N. C. Seabag-Montefiore

Sir, Action to preserve the Royal Anthropological Institute's library may be regarded as an excellent precedent for solving the problems confronting the Royal Commonwealth Society (Dr Armour's letter, January 18). Since 1976, the institute's library has effectively been merged with that of the Museum of Mankind (part of the British Museum) in Burlington Gardens, while browsing and borrowing rights for its fellows have been preserved.

The RAI continues to provide a substantial annual grant for book purchases and a librarian to select them, while the government provides space and staff through the Museum of Mankind. Considerable expense continues, but both RAI fellows and the general public have continuing access to a larger library than might otherwise have been possible.

When the Museum of Mankind moves back to Bloomsbury, as the British Library moves on, there would perhaps be room there for the Royal Commonwealth Society's library as well.

Yours faithfully,
N. C. SEABAG-MONTEFIORE
(Honorary Treasurer)
Royal Anthropological Institute,
50 Fitzroy Street, W1.

Coining clichés

From Mrs Lavender Westwood

Sir, Perhaps rivers always "burst their banks" and never overflow (letter, January 21) for the same reason as towns always spring up and populations explode — that we like to feel we live dangerously.

Yours faithfully,
LAVENDER WESTWOOD,
The River House, by Loddon,
Wargrave, Berkshire,
January 21.

Straight from the Bard

From Mrs Elizabeth Newlands

Sir, Lady Hylton's illuminating letter (January 18) on Shakespeare's "extras" reminds me of the strange confusion over the name of Macbeth's first victim. Although called Duncan in the list of *dramatis personae*, he is otherwise addressed by the bleeding Sergeant in only the second scene: "Mark, King of Scotland." Perhaps the man's injuries have affected his memory.

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH NEWLANDS,
3 Newington Green Road, N1,
January 19.



COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM
January 27: The Queen, Honorary Air Commodore, visited Royal Air Force Marham this morning, and was received by Group Captain G.E. Scurr (Station Commander).

Her Majesty toured displays in the Base Hangar and visited the Reconnaissance Intelligence Centre and the Tornado Propulsion Flight Wing.

The Queen toured the new Station Headquarters after unveiling a commemorative plaque, and later visited a married quarter.

The Lady Susan Hussey, Sir Kenneth Scott and Wing Commander David Walker, RAF, were in attendance.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
January 27: The Princess Royal,

Master, The Worshipful Company of Lincolners, today visited Walsall for the Master's Annual Trade Visit and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for the West Midlands (The Earl of Aylesford).

Her Royal Highness attended a Luncheon at Walsall Chamber of Commerce and later visited Jabez Cliff Ltd and James Connell Ltd.

In the evening The Princess Royal attended a dinner at the Masonic Hall, Aldridge.

Mrs Timothy Holderness-Roddam was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
January 27: The Princess of Wales today visited Pine Lodge, The Thames Valley, Hospice at Hatch Lane, Windsor.

Mr Patrick Jephson was in attendance.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal, as Patron of the Incorporated Liverpool School of Tropical Agriculture, will visit the school at Pembroke Place, Liverpool, at 9.55; as President of the Save the Children Fund, she will visit Lyons Bakery, Barnsley, at 1.00; and will open the Park Rehabilitation Centre, Baskley Moor Lane, Rotherham, at 3.00.

The Duke of Gloucester will open the Magistrates' Court House, Great Yarmouth, at 11.00; the Probation Office at 12.05; visit Churchman House, St Giles Street, Norwich, at 2.15; and will visit the Smithsian Treasure Exhibition at the Castle Museum at 3.15.

The Duchess of Gloucester will open the newly refurbished Lucas Block at St Bartholomew's Hospital at 11.00.

Church news

Clergy appointments

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, has appointed the following as Honorary Canon of Canterbury Cathedral: the Rev Robert Stroud, Rector, Holy Trinity in Christ Church, Folkestone, and Rural Dean of Folkestone; and the Rev Jonathan Gledhill, Vicar, St Mary Bredin, Canterbury, and Rural Dean of Canterbury.

The Rev Canon Richard Astley, Rector, Bath Abbey, will be also Honorary Canon of Bath Cathedral.

The Rev Canon Herbert C. Bradbury, Vicar, Wrotham in Wrotham and Bishops Cleeve, will be also Honorary Canon of Wrotham Cathedral.

The Rev Canon M. J. Lang, Vicar, Holy Trinity, Walsingham, will be also Honorary Canon of Walsingham Cathedral.

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Two contenders perform at the final of the Yamaha Music Foundation string scholarships at the Royal College of Music. Mieszko Kanno, left, of Finchley, north London, and Deborah Widdup, of Surbiton, Surrey, both aged 23, were among ten players competing yesterday for scholarships worth £2,000.

Legal appointments

Mr Keith Hollis to be joint District Judge for the district of the Eastbourne group of county courts and joint District Judge in the District Registry of the High Court at Eastbourne and Hastings.

Mr Richard Hendrick to be joint District Judge for the district of the Cardiff county court and joint District Judge in the District Registry of the High Court at Cardiff.

Mr Jerome Karet to be joint District Judge for the district of the Brentford group of county courts.

Mr Justice Pill to be a Judge of the Employment Appeal Tribunal.

Mr Paul Collins to be a Circuit Judge assigned to the South Eastern circuit.

Fruiters Company
On January 27, 1992, the Fruiters Company elected the following Officers for the ensuing year: Master, Mr Alan F. Todd, MBE; Upper Warden, Mr M.B. Sykes; Lower Warden, Mr M.B. Sykes; General Sir Robert Pascoe, KCB, MBE, was elected as a Liverman of the Company Honorary Causa, and Mrs W.W. Ashton was elected as an Honorary Freeman of the Company.

University news

Oxford

The following are proposed to receive honorary degrees in June 1992:

D.Lit: Sir Vidia Naipaul, Laureate Whistler, engraver and writer.

D.Sc: Professor Murray Gell-Mann, RA Millikan Professor of Theoretical Physics, California Institute of Technology, Professor Margaret Turner-Warwick, DBE, President of the Royal College of Physicians, Fellow of University College London.

D.Mus: Dame Joan Sutherland, singer.

Queen Margaret II of Denmark will receive the Degree of Doctor of Civil Law by Diploma.

Queen's Belfast

The following honorary degrees are to be awarded:

LL.D: Professor Martin Harris, Vice-Chancellor of Essex; Sir Ian Fraser, consultant surgeon; Sir Brian Hutton, Lord Chief Justice of N Ireland; Dr Thomas Mitchell, Provost of Trinity College, Dublin.

D.Sc: Professor Frederick Brown, Professor of Law, Queen's; M. Laurent Beaudoin, Chairman and chief executive of Bombardier Inc.

D.Lit: Mr Brian Friel, writer.

D.Soc: Mr John Cole, BBC political editor.

Essex

The following are to be awarded honorary degrees:

Professor Jean Blondel, Professor of Political Science, Baron Bullock of Lestfield, Fellow of St Catherine's College, Oxford.

Professor Kim Cameron, Professor of Telecommunications Systems, former Professor of Social Anthropology, Professor Jean Franco, Professor of Spanish and Portuguese, Mrs Leah Levin, Director of Justice with International Commission of Jurists.

Professor Sir Frederick Warner, chairman of the SCOPE Unit at Essex.

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Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Henry VII, reigned 1485-1509.

1457: Charles George Gordon, general, London, 1833.

1833: Sir Vidia Naipaul, Laureate Whistler, engraver and writer.

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Birthdays

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Essex

The following are to be awarded honorary degrees:

Professor Jean Blondel, Professor of Political Science, Baron Bullock of Lestfield, Fellow of St Catherine's College, Oxford.

Professor Kim Cameron, Professor of Telecommunications Systems, former Professor of Social Anthropology, Professor Jean Franco, Professor of Spanish and Portuguese, Mrs Leah Levin, Director of Justice with International Commission of Jurists.

Professor Sir Frederick Warner, chairman of the SCOPE Unit at Essex.

Essex

Forthcoming marriages

Mr M. Comil

The engagement is announced between Maurizio, son of Mr G. Comil, and the late Mrs V. Comil, of Asil, Italy, and Elizabeth Amanda, younger daughter of Dr and Mrs R.A. Bugler, of Haverhill, Devon.

Mr G.F. Johnson Houghton

The engagement is announced between Gordon, son of Mr and Mrs R.F. Johnson Houghton, of Blewbury, Oxfordshire, and Wendy, daughter of Mr and Mrs E.R. Houghton, of Upton by Chester, Cheshire.

Mr J. Pettit

The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Mrs S. Pettit, of Northwood, and Sarah, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs P. Snape, of Little Chalfont, Buckinghamshire.

Mr H.B. Raine

The engagement is announced between Henry, son of the late Mr C.S. Raine and of Mrs E. Raine, of Buckhurst Hill, Essex, and Rosalind, younger daughter of Dr and Mrs N.A. Benister, of Leeds.

Mr C.P. Rook

The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr and Mrs Gareth Rook, of Blackthorn, Lancashire, and Helen, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Alan Williams, of Ardley, Hertfordshire.

Mr A.M. Taylor

The engagement is announced between Alan, son of Mr Malcolm Taylor, of Walsfield, Yorkshire, and the late Mrs Taylor, and Claire, daughter of Dr and Mrs David Waters, of Charlottesville, Virginia, United States.

Mr T. Vernon

The engagement is announced between Timothy, son of the late George Vernon and of Mrs George Vernon, of Manor Farm Cottage, Minstead, Hampshire, and Diana, daughter of the Marquess and Marchioness of Hertford, of Ragley Hall, Alcester, Warwickshire.

Mr M.H. Wenden

The engagement is announced between Martin, younger son of Mr and Mrs P.F. Wenden, of Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, and Isabelle, daughter of M and Mme R. Dejonghe, of Marseilles, France.

Mr M.J. Tomlinson

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Marriage

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Mr M.J. Tomlinson

OBITUARIES

JOSE FERRER

Jose Ferrer, American actor and director, died on January 26 aged 80. He won an Oscar in 1951 for his performance as Cyrano de Bergerac, a role he also played on stage and on television. Reference books contradict one another on his birth date, but it is likely that he was born on January 8, 1912, in San-turce, Puerto Rico.

TO THE public at large the name of Jose Ferrer has long conjured up two images: Cyrano de Bergerac and Toulouse Lautrec in John Huston's film *Moulin Rouge*. Both roles involved prodigies — and quantities — of make-up. Rostand's hero needed a nose spectacular enough for his whole life to centre upon it and Toulouse-Lautrec in *Moulin Rouge* required a normal-sized actor to appear about four feet tall on screen. That Ferrer succeeded memorably in both these roles gives some idea of the sort of actor he was: flamboyant, actorly, full of tricks and definitely larger than life even when spectacularly smaller.

He had a long and varied screen career and won his Oscar despite the overall stodginess of the 1950 film version of *Cyrano de Bergerac*. But he was really too bravura to be wholly at home in films, which always seemed rather to cramp his style. Curiously, when he came to direct in the theatre and cinema he was much more sober and meticulous, making good, solid stage successes and films that were interesting and serious rather than thrillingly original.

On stage he was something quite different. In the years before he became a star he gained a reputation simply for versatility and reliability. Once he was a headliner and his name started appearing above the title of the play he could be relied upon for fireworks. He never hesitated to try out new and noteworthy things: in 1960 he sang the title role in Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi* at the Santa Fe Opera Festival and in 1965 he played the mime role of Dr Coppelius in the ballet *Coppelia* in Palm Beach.

He was christened Jose Vincente Ferrer de Otero y Cimron, son of a wealthy lawyer. The family moved to New York when he was a child and he originally intended to be an architect. But while studying architecture he discovered the pleasures of university dramatics and instantly decided that he had found his true vocation. His first professional appearance was in a showboat on Long Island in 1934. The next year he joined Joshua Logan's stock company, thereby beginning a personal and professional association which continued until Logan's death. In 1935 he reached Broadway, in the humble guise of Second Policeman in *A Slight Case of Murder* and little by little he was noticed as a capable



As Cyrano de Bergerac, 1950, left, as Toulouse Lautrec in *Moulin Rouge* with Zsa Zsa Gabor, 1953; and during his penultimate visit to the Chichester Festival, 1988

Thomas. *The Shrike* was later filmed, with Ferrer again starring and directing.

On screen his career at this time was no less rewarding. Apart from *Moulin Rouge* he appeared as the fallible preacher in *Miss Sadie Thompson* with Rita Hayworth, *The Caine Mutiny* and *Deep in my Heart*, where he played the composer Sigmund Romberg. The first film he directed was *Cockleshell Heroes*, in which he also starred — some thought over-prominently. Undeterred by such criticism he continued in quick succession with *The Great Man*, *I Accuse!* (Ferrer as Dreyfus), *The High Cost of Living*, *Return to Peyton Place* and the second version of the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical *State Fair*.

By 1962 when he appeared in the all-star cast of *Lawrence of Arabia* his film career had really peaked, and though he continued to appear regularly on screen throughout the Seventies he tended to be one of many veterans playing small roles in big movies like *The Greatest Story Ever Told*, *Ship of Fools*, *Voyage of The Damned* and *The Swann*.

One of his more improbable chores was to reprise Cyrano yet again in Abel Gance's eccentric film, *Cyrano de Bergerac* (1964); his other foreign films, of which he made many, were negligible, and among his later pictures only Billy Wilder's *Fedora* showed some gleam of distinction.

Similarly, on stage, he was seen more and more frequently touring, doing summer stock, or taking over roles like Don Quixote and Cervantes in *Man of La Mancha* from their originators. He seldom worked in the British theatre, but directed *You*

all-round performer. His first major success also came via Logan: He took on the title role of Brandon Thomas's *Charley's Aunt* at the Court Theatre in 1940 in a revival originally intended for Walter Sleazak. Ferrer himself recalled that Sleazak was none too pleased with the success he had on the opening night. It was a role Ferrer revived on several subsequent occasions.

At this time he also began to direct on stage and underlined his versatility by taking over from Danny Kaye in the long-running Cole Porter musical *Let's Face It*, and then immediately afterwards playing Iago to Paul Robeson's Othello. In 1946, he toured an ambitious repertoire of plays starring himself, including *Richard III*, *Cyrano de Bergerac* (for the first time), and William Archer's creaking but enjoyable melodrama *The Green Goddess*. Later in the year he brought his *Cyrano* to Broadway. It seemed only logical that when Maxwell Anderson's *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* was being adapted as a starring vehicle for Ingrid Bergman, Ferrer should be brought to Hollywood to play the Dauphin.

Unfortunately the film proved a costly flop. Ferrer came back west to the stage to take over as director of

the New York City Theatre Company and play for them in a repertoire which included *Volpone*, *Angel Street* (the American title of *Gaslight*), *The Alchemist*, *The Long Voyage Home* and *The Insect Play*.

Hollywood, however, was still lying in wait for him. He was soon called back to appear in three films: as a crazed hypnotist in *Whirlpool*, a sick Latin American dictator in *Crisis*, and as Cyrano in Stanley Kramer's reverent version of the Rostand, evidently devised entirely as a showcase for Ferrer's much praised stage performance. After his Oscar, he shuttled regularly between Hollywood and New York, starring and directing.

In 1950 he had a big stage success as the manic actor-manager in a revival of *Twentieth Century* and produced and directed the dramatic success *Stalag 17* and the two-handed comedy, *The Fourposter*. In 1952 he directed and starred in *The Shrike*; Joseph Kramm's overheated drama of a savagely vindictive wife and the husband she drives close to insanity. This was another of his biggest successes, revived in repertoire at City Centre with Ferrer's old favourites *Cyrano*, *Richard III* and that "Aunt" created by Brandon

Thomas. *The Shrike* was later filmed, with Ferrer again starring and directing.



Know I Can't Hear You When the Water's Running in London (1968). Chichester saw his Cyrano in 1975 and he later became rather fond of the Sussex Festival, being last seen there in a musical version of Ionesco's *Rhinoceros*.

Ferrer was an actor held in reverence by the sort of audience that likes to see the wheels going round: with him, acting was something that not only had to be done, but had to be seen to be done. Given this limitation, his talents were wide-ranging, and he always remained an actor first and foremost, even when he had graduated to being a star. Personally he was liked and criticised in about equal measures.

He was married four times, his wives including the actress Uta Hagen and the singer, Rosemary Clooney of "Me and My Teddybear" fame. The first three marriages were dissolved and apparently Ferrer was not well pleased in the late Eighties to see himself portrayed by the pop singer Tony Orlando in *Rosie*, a television biography of Rosemary Clooney which placed most of the blame for her mental breakdown on his philandering. Two of his six children are actors.

APPRECIATIONS

Sir Charles Villiers

YOUR otherwise full and sensitive obituary of Sir Charles Villiers erred on one point. He was, in my experience, anything but "an archetypal City figure."

In 1980 I was working on inner city regeneration problems. He had become chairman of British Steel (Industrial) Ltd., having just retired from the British Steel Corporation. As such he was encouraging, as your obituary recorded, new industries to move into those areas blighted by the steel closures, and thus bring hope back to those threatened communities.

I wanted the benefit of his overview, experience and thinking. He generously offered all of that and more. He invited me to his office in Victoria. We first met on December 30, 1980. The two-week Christmas break was by then becoming, regrettably, an established feature of British commerce and industry. The area round his office was deserted; parking was easy.

I was shown up to his office. There was the lone figure of Sir Charles, in his shirt sleeves, pouring over plans, analysing cash flows, wanting to exchange ideas on the urgent, and until then largely neglected, economic and social problems of the inner city and the abandoned industrial wastelands. We discussed (and subsequently visited) the innovative and exemplary St Helen's Trust and worked on schemes for financial help to small business, using the then burgeoning Enterprise Agency network.

These were not the engagements of the archetypal City figure during the Christmas and New Year holiday period, nor at any other time.

Ansel Harris

THE obituary of Sir Charles Villiers (January 23)

makes no mention of his continuing pro-active approach to problems he perceived, which continued beyond his retirement right into his last weeks.

In 1985 he launched the British American Project for the Successor Generation, with the support of the Royal Institution for International Affairs in London and the School for Advanced International Studies in Washington.

The objective of the project is to develop a multi-disciplinary network of personal trans-Atlantic relationships to the benefit of both ends of the traditional special relationship.

The idea grew from Villiers's life-long friendship with Lewis Van Dusen of Philadelphia, with whom he remained in constant touch after they first met at Oxford 60 years ago. Both men had seen, during the second world war and afterwards, how valuable personal relationships could be in resolving international differences, and in ensuring the achievement of common objectives.

The project brings together for a week each year young people, prospective leaders from many fields of activity in the US and UK, to see what each can learn from the other in areas such as changing international relationships and the difficulties of building a sound multi-cultural society.

That Villiers succeeded admirably can be warmly attested by the 350 fellows — men and women from politics, business, public service, education, trades unions, the arts — of the project's first seven years.

Villiers remained the chairman of the project until his death; he presided at all seven annual conferences, and even in the last months was active in ensuring its future.

Stephen Waley-Cohen

Martin Grafton

MAY I add a coda by way of tribute to Colonel Martin Grafton (obituary, January 3). I was one of those who "followed and loved him", as your writer so perceptively put it.

I first met Martin in the summer of 1965 when I was a new recruit to the Conservative research department, responsible for housing and building matters. I acted as secretary to various Tory policy groups which he joined or advised.

In September 1967, at his invitation, I joined the National Federation of Building Trades Employers as its first ever parliamentary liaison officer. We kept in close touch until his retirement. Martin never claimed a vast knowledge of construction. But he was a first class manager of

people. He ran an extraordinarily successful and happy unit. He also had excellent relations with the builders themselves, the members of the federation whose subscriptions paid all our salaries. He was a tough leader — staff who failed to make the grade were demoted, shuffled sideways or, if necessary, even "retired". But he was a kindly and just man. In an organisation which had long been known for office politics, he was a universally respected and well loved figure. The construction industry has lost a fine spokesman and many of us will mourn a good friend.

Michael Latham, MP

DAME GWEN FFRANGCON-DAVIES

Dame Gwen Ffrangcon-Davies, DBE, actress whose career spanned 80 years, died yesterday aged 101. Her partnership with John Gielgud in 1924 in *Romeo and Juliet* went into theatrical history. Nearly forty years later she was playing with Peter Hall's Royal Shakespeare Company during its first London season at the Aldwych. She was born on January 25, 1891.

GWEN Ffrangcon-Davies made her first stage appearance as "A Fairy" in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in April, 1911, and was last seen in a Sherlock Holmes television adventure just after Christmas. Her career was therefore, alongside that of Athene Seyler, the longest and most distinguished of character actresses this century and her death has brought down one of the great pillars of classical acting in our time. No one who saw the BBC television documentary of a few years ago, in which, already well into her nineties, Miss Ffrangcon-Davies instructed a group of teenage drama students in the art of being Juliet and, in the process, became younger than all of them, could doubt that hers was a remarkable talent.

Born in London, she was the daughter of a Welsh choral singer who was said to have taken the name Ffrangcon from a Welsh beauty spot to add to his more prosaic Davies. Early in her career she was instructed by *The Times* that the hyphenated result was "far too unwieldy" for theatre posters, advice she seems to have ignored for the remainder of the century. Her stage debut at Her Majesty's in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* was followed by several first world war tours in everything from Shakespeare to the operetta *The Arcadians* and it was as a singer that she had her earliest successes in such choral dramas as *The Immortal Hour* and *The Birth of Arthur* at the Glastonbury Festival and later the Old Vic. By 1921 she was at the



As Juliet, playing opposite Gielgud, in the 1924 *Romeo and Juliet*. Right, as Mary Tyrone, with Anthony Quayle, in Eugene O'Neill's *Long Day's Journey into Night* (Globe, 1958)

Birmingham Rep. playing leading roles in J. M. Barrie's *Quality Street* and *The Admirable Crichton*, and two years later scored her first great London success creating the roles of Eve and the 'Newly Born' in the first production of Shaw's *Back to Methuselah*. In 1924 she played Juliet to Gielgud's first Romeo, though their great partnership did not get off to the easiest of starts as he later recalled. "I had seen her in *The Immortal Hour* and the beauty of her acting and singing enchanted me — those lovely, stylised movements of her hands and her high, clear voice seeming to belong to another world as she glided through the forest, hardly seeming to touch the ground...but the Gwen who appeared at our first *Romeo*

rehearsal was very different, wearing an old dress and a business-like overall: her face was no longer pale, and she was brisk and impulsive in her movements. As we were introduced she looked at me strangely and then said: 'Thank God.' She went on to explain that she had seen me as that wretched butterfly poet in *The Insect Play* and was appalled at the idea of my becoming her Romeo. It was a nasty shock to my vanity to find that my performance had affected her so unpleasantly."

Happily, however, they triumphed as Romeo and Juliet, not only at the Regent in London but also, more surprisingly perhaps, at the London Coliseum where they reprised the balcony scene on a variety bill several months later. Gwen Ffrangcon-Davies

was to enjoy two other great triumphs with Gielgud at ten-year intervals, as the Queen in *Richard of Bordeaux* in 1932 and as Gwendolyn in his 1940 revival of *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Less successfully, they also starred together in a 1942 *Macbeth*. In the intervening years, she had also enjoyed considerable acclaim through the 1930s as Elizabeth Browning in the long-running *The Barretts of Wimpole Street*, where her rather long face and plaintive eyes perfectly suited the valiant spirit in the sick body of a sweet young woman.

In 1942, after several wartime tours with Gielgud and others, she and her lifelong companion, the actress Maudie Vane, went out to Vane's native Johannesburg to set up the first major classical theatre company in South Africa, one much admired by Noel Coward when he was out there on tour and saw them in a production of his own *Blithe Spirit*. Returning to England in 1947, she played the Mother in Terence Rattigan's ill-fated *Adventure Story* and then joined the 1950 Stratford season to play Porcia, Katharine in *Henry VIII*, Regan, and to succeed Peggy Ashcroft as Beatrice in *Much Ado*. She toured extensively for the British Council before making an unusual break into comedy for Donna Lucia in the John Mills *Charley's Aunt* revival. At the Lyric, Hammersmith, in 1954, she was a memorable Ranevskaya in *The Cherry Orchard* and two years later a founder-member of the Royal Court in their opening production, *The Mulberry Bush*,

from which she went immediately into T. S. Eliot's *The Family Reunion*. Again she replaced Peggy Ashcroft, this time in *The Chalk Garden* and created Mrs Callifer in Graham Greene's *The Potting Shed* before her last great critical success in 1958, as Mary Tyrone in O'Neill's *Long Day's Journey into Night*. This role won her the Evening Standard award for best actress.

As well as being in at the beginning of George Devine's English Stage Company at the Royal Court, Gwen Ffrangcon-Davies was also a founder of Peter Hall's Royal Shakespeare Company, which she joined at the Aldwych in 1961 for the queens in *Ondine* and *Becket*. Two years later, well into her seventies, she made her Broadway debut as Mrs Candour in *The School for Scandal* and was back at the Haymarket in 1965 for *The Glass Menagerie* and at the Court in 1970 for *Uncle Vanya*.

Always a little too theatrical for great film or television success, she remained into her eighties a tower of strength on stage and when she came out of retirement in 1988 for the master class on the playing of Juliet, it was one of her asides to a young and nervous drama student that came as a breathtaking reminder of the historical tradition she represented. "Don't worry, my dear," she told her: "I know how frightening this is: I had to audition as Juliet for Ellen Terry."

Hers was a tough generation for classical actresses of theatrical grandeur, perhaps the toughest: all her life she had to compete for the great roles against Sybil Thormdike, Edith Evans and Peggy Ashcroft and it is arguable that they very often were the winners. Yet she retained a craggy authority and the ability to break the audience's heart on those rare moments, as when playing Mary Tyrone, when she let the facade crack to reveal inner torment. She was created DBE last year.

JAN 28 ON THIS DAY 1915



It is impossible to conjecture how many men enlisted in response to the sentiments voiced by Mr Kipling, but there must be few people whose pulse does not beat more quickly to military music whether it comes from the fife and drum or the massed bands of the Guards.

MUSIC OF WAR

MR KIPLING'S PLEA FOR BANDS

Mr Rudyard Kipling delivered an interesting speech yesterday at the Mansion House at a meeting promoted by the Recruiting Bands Committee and held with the object of raising funds in the London district as an aid to recruiting.

Mr Rudyard Kipling said: "I am not a musician, so if I speak as a barbarian I must ask you and several gentlemen on the platform here to forgive me. From the lowest point of view a few drums and fife in the battalion means at least five extra miles in a route march, quite apart from the fact that they can swing a battalion back to quarters happy and composed in its mind, no matter how wet or tired its body may be. Even when there is no route marching, the mere come and go, the roll and flourishing of drums and fife around the barracks is as warming and cheering as the sight of a fire in a room. A band, not necessarily a full band, but a band of a dozen brasses and wood-winds, is immensely valuable in the district where men are billeted. It revives memories, it quickens association, it opens and unifies the hearts of men more surely than any other appeal can, and in this respect it side recruits perhaps more than any other agency. I wonder whether I should say this — the tunes that they employ and the words that go with that tune are sometimes very remote from hero-

ism or devotion, but the magic and the compelling power is in them, and it makes men's souls realize certain truths that their minds might doubt.

Further, no one, not even the adjutant, can say for certain where the soul of the battalion lies, but the expression of that soul is most often found in the band. (Cheers.) It stands to reason that 1,200 men whose lives are pledged to each other must have some common means of expression, some common means of conveying their moods and their thoughts to themselves and their world. The band feels the moods and interprets the thoughts. A wise and sympathetic bandmaster — and the masters that I have met have been that — can lift a battalion out of depression, cheer it in sickness, and steady and recall it to itself in times of almost unendurable stress. (Cheers.) I remember in India in a cholera camp, where the men were suffering very badly, the band of the 10th Lincoln's started a regimental sing-song and went on with that queer, defiant tune "The Lincolnshire Poacher". It was their regimental march that the men had heard a thousand times. There was nothing in it — nothing except all England, all the East Coast, all the fun and daring and horseplay of young men bucketing about big pastures in the moonlight. But as it was given very softly at that bad time in that terrible camp of death, it was the one thing in the world that could have restored as it did restore shaken men back to their pride, humour, and self-control. (Cheers.)

Sir F. Bridge said that what was wanted was a band that would play good rousing march tunes such as he remembered in Rochester when the 19th Royal Irish were sent out for the Crimean War, after badly damaging six policemen the night before. (Laughter.)

With £1,000 a week they ought to have 20 good bands to provide good old tunes like "Tipperary," "Ninety-five," and "Rory O'More."

Maxwell: years of bogus deals

Continued from page 1

company". The discovery of the latest bogus transactions are a further blow to MCC's bankers, who will suffer even greater losses on their £1.3 billion loans than they had feared. The news could mean that MCC, in reality, made little or no profits for several years before going into liquidation last month.

Price Waterhouse investigators, led by David Lee, are concentrating on two Liechtenstein trusts, called Hesto and Corry Stiftung. Hesto carried out deals worth £71 million with MCC, while Corry bought properties for £9 million. Both are also said to have been used as fronts for the illegal attempt to support MCC's share price last year.

The accountants have also found two companies in the British Virgin Islands, called Bantay Bay and Caparra, which bought property for £24 million. They are also examining a deal between MCC and Headington Investments. Mr Maxwell's main private company, in which Headington bought property worth £20 million but never paid for it.

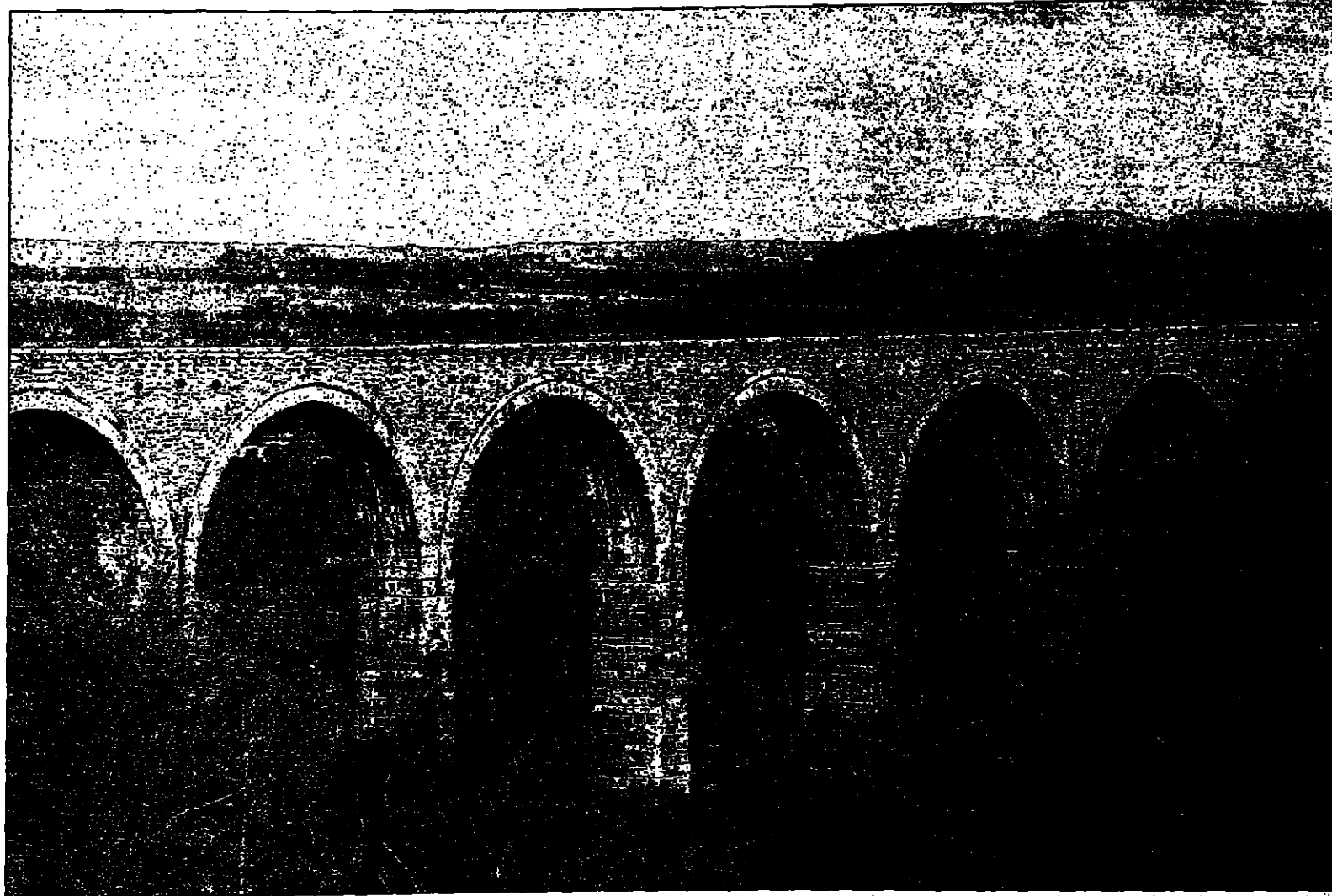
Profits from property development were a principal feature of MCC's accounts, contributing £41 million in the year to March 1990, or almost a quarter of the total £172 million.

MCC's accounts and the transactions were audited each year by Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte. The accountants are thought to have allowed the deals to be included in the accounts after seeing contracts signed by the off-shore companies in which they agreed to make deferred payments for the properties.

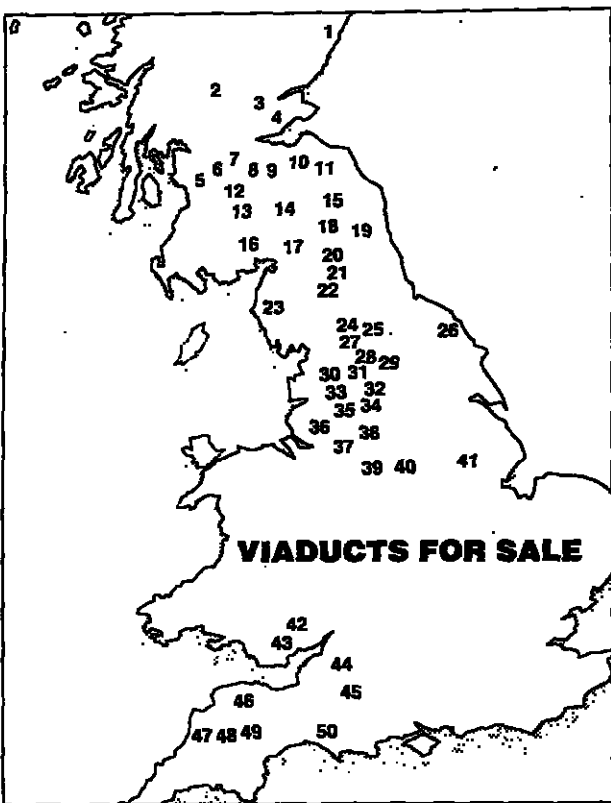
● The trustees of four Maxwell company pension funds have confirmed that they will be wound up, meaning heavy losses for an estimated 4,000 pensioners and employees.

Clay & Partners, trustee of AGB Pension Scheme, AGB Research Group Retirement Benefits Scheme, Maxwell Media Pension Plan and Directors' Pension Plan, said that they had decided to wind up the schemes following discussions with Arthur Andersen, the administrator of the companies. The four funds are thought to have been drained of cash by Maxwell.

A statement from Clay said that existing pensioners would continue to receive pensions in the short term, and would be given priority in the distribution of the remaining assets.



On the market: Lambley, a Grade II* listed viaduct which opened in 1852, spans a gorge of the South Tyne in spectacular countryside



VIADUCTS FOR SALE

1 North Water, 2 Kendrum Burn, 3 Glenfarg, 4 Balbirnie, 5 Giffenmill, 6 Lurgan, 7 Clyde, 8 Uddington, 9 Westfield, 10 Camps, 11 Elstons Glen, 12 Dalhousie, 13 Glen Water, 14 Elvan, 15 Teviot, 16 Goldielee, 17 Riddings, 18 Shankend, 19 Fontburn, 20 Hatfield, 21 Lambly, 22 Burnstone, 23 Slaggyford, 24 Kaskie, 25 Cleator Moor, 26 Low Gill, 27 Apperett, 28 Hawes, 29 Larpool, 30 Whitby, 31 Lune, 32 Sedburgh, 33 Ingleton, 34 Nidd Bridge, 35 Martholme, 36 Gt Harwood, 37 Hewenden, 38 Wilsden, 39 Thornton, 40 Helmsdale, 41 Haslingden, 42 West Vale, 43 Lumb, 44 Stubbins, 45 Douglas, 46 Whalley, 47 Hengood, 48 Pansford, 49 Castlefield, Manchester, 50 Millers Dale N. Buxton, 40 Rowsley, 41 Torksey, 42 Nine Arches, 43 Nant-y-bwyrch, 44 Hengood, 45 Bath Road, Shepton Mallet, 46 Chetnam, 47 Woolstone Mill, 48 Derton, 49 Holesworthy, 50 Cannington, Uplyme.

For sale at only £1 each: 50 Victorian railway viaducts

Michael Dynes reports on how BR is saving some of its heritage at low cost to itself

FIFTY British Rail Victorian railway viaducts have been discreetly eased on to the depressed property market for the asking price of £1 apiece. As with all such bargains, however, there is a catch.

Title to any of these splendid examples of nineteenth century railway heritage includes the responsibility in perpetuity to maintain them in the manner to which they were once accustomed — an obligation which could cost their new owners hundreds of thousands of pounds.

As part of the transfer arrangements, BR is prepared to provide prospective viaduct owners with a maintenance dowry of about £70,000, which should cover repair and upkeep costs for about ten years. After that the new owners are on their own.

The sales of disused viaducts is a belated consequence of the era of the Beeching rail cuts in the 1960s. After the closure of thousands of miles of railway, BR was left holding surplus land, property, and assorted structures, which rail managers say are too much of a financial burden, particularly as many of the viaducts are 20 or 30 miles from the nearest railway.

Indeed, according to Rich-

ard Marks, a spokesman for the BR property board, the railway's continued responsibility for these national treasures is little short of an anachronism. "BR does not want the responsibility for maintaining the past," he said. "If these structures are to be preserved, the cost of doing so must be accepted by the community."

BR property managers have already succeeded in disposing of 24 railway viaducts, including those at Balmossie in Dundee, Drury Dam in Mansfield, and Tavistock North in Cornwall. But the disposal of the remaining 50, most of which are located in Scotland and the north of England, is going to be difficult — especially at the height of a recession.

Difficult, perhaps, but by no means impossible. Since the viaducts are older than any human being, they have become an integral part of the landscape. Consequently, rail enthusiasts and local communities are often reluc-

tant to see them fall into disrepair and thereby risk demolition — a sentiment which BR is eager to cultivate.

The creation of the Northern Viaducts Trust, a one-off example. The trust, established by a solicitor, a local councillor, a former banker, and a retired mechanical engineer, was created to save the beautiful Smardale Gill viaduct in Cumbria, after failing masonry raised the spectre of demolition.

With financial help from BR, English Heritage, and other sympathetic groups, the trust succeeded in raising the £320,000 needed to carry out urgent repairs on the 14 tall sandstone arches, thereby becoming a model for similar community-based preservation initiatives in the future.

The odds against preserving these remnants of Britain's industrial heritage may appear daunting. But the burgeoning railway preservation movement, the eagerness of local authorities to look after their immediate environment, and the commitment of small groups of individuals to lend a hand suggests that many of these monuments of Victorian civil engineering will remain part of the landscape for decades.

Political sketch

An invitation to meet at the tower

Why did the question arise, yesterday at Westminster, whether Chris Patten had any plans to visit Blackpool? To find out, follow me through two layers of quaint Commons ritual. Our journey will be accomplished in two paragraphs.

The chairman of the Conservative party is not, as such, a *Chrysos* servant. But he sits in Cabinet, is involved in policy, and needs (Tories maintain) a way of plugging into the smoothly serviced ministerial machinery. So, he is appointed

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. For a small salary, an official car and limited perks, he undertakes the modest workload imposed by that ancient office. Mr Patten is a not-quite minister and (every six weeks or so) answers questions in the House.

These must, in theory, relate to his Duchy duties. In practice MPs want to ask about Tory policies. So they tend to ask Mr Patten how he would respond to various political queries. If he were to visit the Duchy and one of its inhabitants were to ask him: To spring this on an unprepared Patten, your first question (which you must not in advance) is simply whether he will visit the Duchy, or anywhere in it. The second, "supplementary" question (which you can ask whatever you choose — as long as it's on behalf of someone he might meet if he went there).

Such a person, speaking through the medium of Dennis Skinner (Lab, Bolton), made a brief but colourful appearance in the Chamber yesterday. It was during Mr Patten's ten minutes at the Dispatch Box. Would the Chancellor be visiting Blackpool, asked Skinner. "No immediate plans," replied Patten.

Ah, said Skinner, but there was somebody in Blackpool who wanted to discuss something with Mr Patten. Skinner knew him. "Ah, miss, I'll give you a piece of my mind."

"Not only," he said, "is the poll tax three times higher than the rates, but, 'e sez, 'Ah've lost me job, me wife 'as bin waitin' for an operation for two years, and me daughter 'as lost 'er maternity grant through this Tory

government. An' me son, 'e sez, 'as lost 'is income support. When you see that chairman of the Tory party tell him Ah want 'e meet 'im in discuss these matters. On top-a Blackpool Tower..."

Here Skinner seemed to hesitate — wondering, perhaps, whether to add that the man's brother had lost his arm in a meat-grinder while his grandmother had been eaten by a shark — but the direct connection with Conservative policies was weakening. He sat down.

No Chancellor of the Duchy, still, is a sketchwriter, would be so impudent as to doubt that the meeting between this unlikely man and Mr Skinner had taken place exactly as described. A straight-talking son of the Derbyshire soil like Dennis would never embroider.

And whether the hapless Blackpoolian (nobody, surely, would take a holiday in Blackpool at a time of such distress) had exaggerated his woes we shall never know.

The moment passed, and we heard Alistair Burt (C, Bury N) ("I was in Blackpool three weeks ago") tell Mr Patten what businessmen in the Duchy were saying. They were attacking Labour policy, Mr Burt, by chance, had met a different kind of Blackpool resident from Mr Skinner's friend.

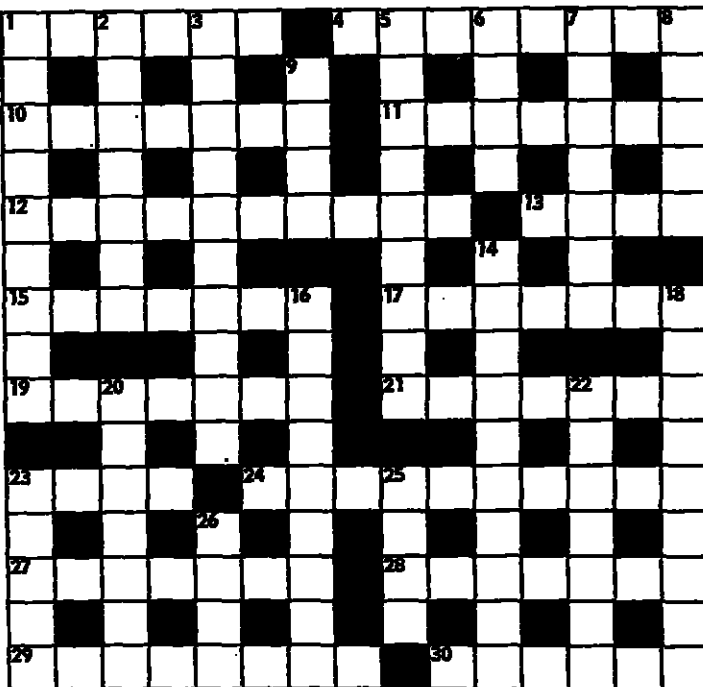
No, your sketchwriter's purpose is to examine neither of these conversations, but to consider Mr Patten's rejoinder. In time, said Patten, he would doubtless return to Blackpool, "the town where I was born."

I never met Mr Patten's man. To have given birth to him in Blackpool sounds like a lapse of judgment but there is no excuse, we must not judge.

What I should really like to know, though, is whether, on May 12, 1944, as the tiny, naked, Christopher Francis was placed in her arms, Mrs Patten Sir could have had the least idea that, nearly half a century later, as chairman of the Conservative party and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, her son would be standing at the Dispatch Box in the House of Commons responding to an invitation from Dennis Skinner to meet a man, in Blackpool, on top of the Tower.

MATTHEW PARRIS

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,826



- ACROSS**
- Division in church is accepted by some odd characters (6).
 - Like eventful wanderings that make one's day (8).
 - Rifle storage frame incorporating a couple of poles (7).
 - Nice setting for a Mexican painter outside Italy? (7).
 - Progressive art gave Dan the shivers (5-5).
 - Wife is with husband making (4).
 - Excursion in which fish is caught in rough water (4-3).
 - Possibly a coach's medium of communication (10).
 - European family group accepting a word of thanks (7).
 - In the future, a student's form of thinking (7).
 - Strong wind for two-thirds of the month (4).
 - Royal couple taking unusually nice fish (10).
- DOWN**
- Dismal prisoner serving bird (7).
 - Regular payments? One way to eke out an existence (7).
 - Inclination to retain one of three basic skills in education (8).
 - Proxy generously carrying part of the water (6).
 - Contemptuous society as found in the far north (9).
 - Way to understand medieval guild's report of proceedings (7).
 - Tall sentry, dreadfully slipshod (10).
 - Adventurer was upset about a communist's intrusion (9).
 - Rescue husband (4).
 - Mournful supporter in English 1st (7).
 - Wales it's undiluted and hot (5).
 - Bird soaring when seen around our realm (4).
 - Party man in cold buffet having a gossip (10).
 - Writer wearing women's clothes is an old Welsh prince (9).
 - Free from ignorance, though carrying little weight in some quarters (9).
 - Old square in the time of Miss Durbeyfield? (7).
 - Barrier to fulfilment (7).
 - Russian wife of the lively Left (5).
 - Martin's refuge? (4).
 - Propose to build a lot of industrial machinery (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,825

DOWN: 1. D. 2. E. 3. A. 4. P. 5. A. 6. C. 7. H. 8. E. 9. D. 10. A. 11. P. 12. A. 13. C. 14. H. 15. E. 16. D. 17. E. 18. A. 19. P. 20. A. 21. C. 22. H. 23. E. 24. D. 25. A. 26. P. 27. A. 28. C. 29. H. 30. E. 31. D. 32. A. 33. P. 34. A. 35. C. 36. H. 37. E. 38. D. 39. A. 40. P. 41. A. 42. C. 43. H. 44. E. 45. D. 46. A. 47. P. 48. A. 49. C. 50. H. 51. E. 52. D. 53. A. 54. P. 55. A. 56. C. 57. H. 58. E. 59. D. 60. A. 61. P. 62. A. 63. C. 64. H. 65. E. 66. D. 67. A. 68. P. 69. A. 70. C. 71. H. 72. E. 73. D. 74. A. 75. P. 76. A. 77. C. 78. H. 79. E. 80. D. 81. A. 82. P. 83. A. 84. C. 85. H. 86. E. 87. D. 88. A. 89. P. 90. A. 91. C. 92. H. 93. E. 94. D. 95. A. 96. P. 97. A. 98. C. 99. H. 100. E. 101. D. 102. A. 103. P. 104. A. 105. C. 106. H. 107. E. 108. D. 109. A. 110. P. 111. A. 112. C. 113. H. 114. E. 115. D. 116. A. 117. P. 118. A. 119. C. 120. H. 121. E. 122. D. 123. A. 124. P. 125. A. 126. C. 127. H. 128. E. 129. D. 130. A. 131. P. 132. A. 133. C. 134. H. 135. E. 136. D. 137. A. 138. 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THE TIMES BUSINESS

TUESDAY JANUARY 28 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

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TODAY IN BUSINESS

SUNSET

Kiichi Miyazawa, the Japanese prime minister, has a problem. The Nikkei has fallen from 38,915 to 20,000. After market scandals, intervention is no longer the answer.
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BUYOUTS

Management buyouts are still alive, despite the recession and the Magnet and Lowndes Queensway experiences.
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LAUNCHING

Bob O'Donnell is launching a new airline, which relies on the Airbus A320 aircraft, and has sold all its seats.
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RAISING

An investment capital group has launched a capital-raising scheme aimed at private companies.
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PAYOUT CUT

Nelson Peltz, now a non-executive director at Mountleigh, will suffer from the decision not to pay a dividend.
Page 19

Improved figures bring mixed reaction

Trade deficit narrows to five-year low

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

A SMALLER than expected deficit in December helped narrow Britain's balance of payments deficit for 1991 to £5.8 billion, the lowest for five years, according to government figures. The deficit for 1990 was £15.2 billion.

Although last year's figure was better than the £6.5 billion shortfall Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, predicted in his autumn statement, City economists had mixed feelings about the improvement. Given the depth of recession, the persistence of a deficit continues to cause concern, as recovery is expected to fuel demand for imports. In the 1981-2 recession, the current account moved back into surplus, as imports were braked sharply. Last year, the only month to show a surplus was June.

Analysts were, however, encouraged by the strong performance of exports last year, despite recession or slowdown in key markets overseas. In December and the final quarter as a whole, volume exports, excluding oil and

erratic items, such as gems, ships and aircraft, were at a record. Fears that the pound had entered the exchange-rate mechanism at too high a rate, thereby hampering exports, appear unfounded.

The current account, which comprises trade in visible and invisible goods, such as banking, insurance and travel, recorded a seasonally-adjusted deficit of £388 million in December, down from £630 million in November. The visible trade deficit also narrowed to £688 million from £930 million, while the estimated monthly surplus on invisibles was unchanged at £300 million. The invisibles surplus for the year was £4.2 billion against £3.5 billion in 1990.

Despite the strong export performance, the current account deficit widened in the final quarter to £1.58 billion from £1.34 billion. Government and City forecasts expect further widening this year as the economy recovers. The Treasury has forecast a 1992 deficit of £9.5 billion, but this is likely to be revised in the Budget in March.

Gordon Brown, the shadow trade and industry spokes-

man, highlighted the £3.5 billion deficit on trade in manufactured goods last year, particularly the widening in the final quarter. The deficit on manufactures last year was, however, the smallest since 1983 and compared with an £11.4 billion shortfall in 1990.

Michael Saunders, economist at Salomon Brothers, said it was "very encouraging" to see how well overall exports were holding up. Excluding oil and erratic items, the volume of exports in the final quarter was 2.5 per cent up on the previous quarter and 4 per cent up on the final quarter of 1990. Exports of food and beverages, mainly whisky, showed a sharp pickup. Ian Harnett, chief economist at Strauss Turnbull, voiced concern about the rising level of imports. Import volumes, excluding oil and erratics, rose 1 per cent in the latest quarter. But the government is likely to welcome signs of rising imports as evidence of increased domestic activity.

Exports to the European Community, which takes nearly 60 per cent of British exports, increased to £59.5 billion last year from £55.1 billion in 1990, while imports fell to £61.4 billion from £65.9 billion.

The stock market drew comfort from the Conservative party's improved showing in the opinion polls with share prices making a confident start to the two-week trading account.

The FT-SE 100 index closed below its best of the day after a hesitant start to trading on Wall Street, although dealers expressed satisfaction with the market's overall performance. The index finished 29.5 higher at 2,539.9, having been more than 37 points ahead. Turnover was low, with 448 million shares changing hands and much of the institutions' attention focused on utilities and leading companies.

The dollar rose sharply in the absence of a clear message on exchange rates from the Group of Seven meeting at the weekend, amid market fears for the mark arising from German strike threats and reports that Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president, is ill.

The G7 finance ministers and central bankers had been expected to give a clear signal to strengthen the yen to try to reduce Japan's trade surplus.

The pound lost more than 2.5 cents against the dollar to close at \$1.7790, but otherwise had a good day, buoyed within the exchange-rate mechanism by the Conservatives' lead in the opinion polls and the trade figures. Sterling remained at the bottom of the ERM, but advanced nearly half a pence against the weaker mark. The dollar climbed 2.60 pence to DM1.6155.

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Comment, page 21

Germany's bank workers to hold ballot on strike

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

GERMANY'S banking union is to hold a strike ballot this week in support of a 10.5 per cent pay demand. The decision marks an escalation of industrial strife in the country and increases fears over the economy and interest rates.

The ballot, by the DAG clerical employees' union, will be the second this week. Voting on strike action by steelworkers opened on Sunday and initial polls suggest that there is an overwhelming majority for a stoppage.

DAG, one of two unions representing banking employees, said it would target 250 key branches, especially those of Deutsche Bank, Dresdner Bank and Commerzbank, Germany's three most prominent banks.

It is possible that the employers might react with an industry-wide lock-out. A union official said yesterday that he was confident that the 70 per cent vote needed for a strike would be achieved.

Apart from a 10.5 per cent pay rise, DAG is demanding reduced working hours; the banks are offering pay rises of less than 5 per cent. The DAG justifies its claim by pointing to the banks' record profits last year.

A vote for a strike by bank employees is likely to have serious implications for the present wage round in other non-manufacturing business-

es. In particular, it could encourage OTV, the public sector union, to follow suit. The retail and wholesale industry, with more than 4 million employees, could also be affected.

The increasing likelihood of industrial action in Germany comes amid growing concern over interest rates. Strikes are likely to reaffirm the Bundesbank's tough policy and reduce the chances of an early reduction in rates. The unions argue that their claims are a direct result of the government's imposition of high taxes to finance unification.

On the second day of the steel strike ballot, there were indications that steelworkers strongly back strike action. IG Metall, the metalworkers' union, said it expected more than 90 per cent support from workers at the Hoersch steel plant in Dortmund.

IG Metall said more than 7,000 jobs were at risk at eastern Germany's largest steel plant, because potential buyers refused to pledge the necessary investments. There are several suits for EKO Stahl but none is prepared to invest DM1 billion in a new rolling mill. EKO Stahl's management is known to favour Krupp, the western German steel group, but Krupp insists that the government will have to carry the bulk of the costs.

Unilever sticks to its own brand

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

NEW king of the brandlines at Unilever, the Anglo-Dutch food and household products group, is Michael Perry: the 57-year-old vice-chairman is to become chairman when Sir Michael Angus retires in May.

Mr Perry, who is largely unknown outside the industry, will find himself in charge of Unilever's several hundred product lines which include Blue Band and Flora margarine, Brooke Bond tea, Oxo cubes, Bird's Eye ready meals and Fray Bentos pies.

Under his care will be Persil, Surf, Radion, Comfort, Lux, Lifebuoy, Shield, Jif, Signal, Pearl, Vaseline, Tinsol, and Sunilk, not to mention a speciality chemicals division and an agribusiness that has 80,000 hec-



Perry: company man

tares of plantations throughout the world.

Few newly appointed chairmen would be undaunted by taking on a job of this magnitude but Mr Perry has two distinct advantages. He is a Unilever man through

and through, joining the group as a management trainee in 1957 after King William's College, Isle of Man, and St John's, Oxford.

The second advantage is that he will not be doing the job on his own. At the top of Unilever is a triumvirate, the special committee, made up of the British chairman, the Dutch chairman and a third man. Floris Maaijers, is the current Dutch chairman and Mr Perry has been the third man since May 1991.

Although Mr Perry has a much lower profile than Sir Michael, those who know him say he is every bit as able. While Sir Michael made his name in North America, Mr Perry is a Japanese expert and has done much to build up Unilever in the Far East. He chaired the Opportunity Japan initiative for the trade department in 1991 and launched Priority

Japan shortly afterwards. He has a wide experience of international markets having headed Unilever's subsidiaries in Thailand, Argentina and Japan before joining UAC International, which oversees many of the group's African operations from London.

In September 1989, Mr Perry was made responsible for Unilever's personal products division in America. He took the group upmarket by acquiring Calvin Klein, Fabergé and Elizabeth Arden, the cosmetics groups, for more than £1 billion. The deals brought the Chloé, Fendi, Brut and Lagerfeld brand names to the group's portfolio.

Morris Tabaksblat, chairman of the foods executive, becomes a vice-chairman of Unilever and is co-opted on to the special committee as the third man.

Lloyd's 'to continue losses in 1991'

By JONATHAN PRYNN
PROVISIONAL projections of Lloyd's of London's performance in 1991, due out tomorrow, are expected to show far bigger losses than had been expected.

Most observers of the market had been expecting 1991 to be a break-even year, or at worst show a small loss. However, leaked figures from Chatet, the analysts, are thought to show projected losses of about £800 million. These have to be treated with caution, however, because the 1991 account is not due to close for two years, and because the basis of Chatet's calculations is not yet known. Chatet would not comment on the figures yesterday.

A substantial loss for 1991 would be a major blow to the market, which had been hoping to see the first signs of an improvement after three disastrous years. In 1988, the last year for which official figures are available, Lloyd's made a loss of £510 million. However, 1989 is likely to produce a loss of between £1 billion and £1.5 billion with a similar loss expected for 1990. The 1991 account saw rising premium rates but three heavy catastrophe losses towards the year end in Japan, Canada and California marred what was shaping up to be the best year since 1987.

The Gooda Walker Action Group, which represents more than 1,000 names on the four heavily loss-making Gooda Walker syndicates at Lloyd's, will decide next week whether to advise members not to pay a £101 million cash call, which falls due on March 2. Alfred Doll-Steinberg, the chairman of the Action Group, said no decision would be taken until after a meeting on Thursday with GW Run-Off, the company that now manages the syndicates. He is also meeting a group of Conservative backbench MPs tomorrow night to talk about the losses.

Wanless to head NatWest Markets

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

NATIONAL Westminster Bank has overhauled its internal structure to create a division to handle its largest corporate customers and County NatWest, its securities subsidiary.

Two new deputy chief executives have been appointed, Derek Wanless and Bert Morris. Mr Wanless now becomes favourite contender to succeed Tom Frost, NatWest's chief executive, who retires next year.

Mr Wanless will head a division called NatWest Markets (NWM), which will take in the existing corporate banking, treasury and investment banking operations. The division will have £3 billion capital - more than a third of the entire group.

Mr Wanless said the businesses had been brought together to speed their development. "We have three operating units with a common

customer base and the time is right to bring them into one group and capitalise on their strength."

Nevertheless, Mr Wanless will have to contend with a series of problems in his new job. NatWest's investment banking operations are still recovering from a £49 million loss in 1990 while the corporate banking business is reeling from a series of massive bad debt provisions and the collapse of the Maxwell businesses to which it was a leading lender.

The appointment is the latest stage in Mr Wanless's rapid advance through the bank. Aged 44, he was previously chief executive of the UK Financial Services, and was appointed to the main board only last summer.

Mr Morris will remain as head of National Westminster's support services operations.

Reid sees decade of BR change

By DEREK HARRIS

PRIVATISATION of British Rail under a Conservative government would make no difference to the challenges its management faces Sir Bob Reid, the BR chairman, said in London yesterday.

BR had achieved successes but much remained to be done. He said: "One way or another we are going to see a lot more changes in the coming decade. Change will keep on coming, whether of our own making or imposed in one way or another from the outside."

He went on: "I am not talking privatisation at all. My theme is much wider than that." Whatever changes came on rail ownership, the tasks before BR's management were the same. A quality railway is Sir Bob's target. That would make it a safe railway. It also needed to be a customer-centred railway.

Backing for Major, page 19

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18 BUSINESS NEWS

Building job losses to reach 250,000

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

SIXTY per cent of construction companies are planning further job cuts by the end of March as firms struggle to come to terms with a continued slide in orders and output. Job losses in the building trades are now virtually certain to top 250,000 by the middle of this year, according to the latest state-of-trade enquiry from the Building Employers' Confederation.

The survey, completed in December, shows a further sharp decline in construction output during the final quarter of 1991. Total construction output in Britain last year is now estimated to have fallen 9 per cent.

According to the BEC, output is likely to fall about 5 per

cent again this year, before beginning a slow recovery in 1993. However, the survey showed that enquiries for new work are falling more slowly, and firms are less pessimistic about prospects for future contracts.

The picture remains uneven, however. Larger firms specialising in big speculative commercial and industrial projects remain the hardest hit by the recession.

John Smith, chairman of the BEC, said the results "show clearly that 1992 will again be a very tough year for the construction industry". In addition to the high rate of job losses, "bankruptcies are still rising alarmingly and our training programmes are being shot to pieces".

Mr Smith cautioned against premature enthusiasm about the order outlook. He said: "It is important to understand that it will be some time before these improvements are reflected in increased construction output."

The final-quarter results also show that a third-quarter upturn in output in the North, the Midlands and London quickly fizzled out.

In all, two-thirds of firms reported a fall in output between the third and fourth quarters of last year. According to the BEC, one building firm in five is now working at less than half capacity. Companies are also absorbing inflationary increases in building material prices when making their bids for work, suggesting that their profit margins will continue to decline as they battle for business.

The hardest-hit sectors during the final quarter were public non-housing work and repairs and maintenance. The BEC said local authorities were cutting back on contracts because of difficulty in collecting the community charge.

Overall, however, construction of shops and offices has been reduced most sharply, down 17 per cent last year after a 25 per cent decline during 1990.

Private industrial output, although down just 4 per cent during 1991, is expected to slide badly this year and next because of poor demand for factories and warehouses, and as the Channel tunnel, Europe's biggest construction project, nears completion.

The BEC said anecdotal evidence from housebuilders suggested that the temporary suspension of stamp duty on most houses until August, by Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, had contributed to a slight pick-up in the housing market.

However, housebuilders reported that electoral uncertainty, fears of unemployment and continued falls in house prices continue to overshadow the market.

Protest at change in company taxation

By NEIL BENNETT

ACCOUNTANTS are complaining about a change in taxation methods, which they say could cost British companies millions of pounds every year.

Robson Rhodes, the accountancy firm, says that the Inland Revenue has started barring companies from using previously acceptable methods of reducing their advance corporation tax (ACT) payments. In one case, this has ended with one of its clients facing an additional £2 million tax demand.

Many of Britain's largest companies have suffered from high ACT payments, including Hanson, BTR and Standard Chartered Bank. All could be affected by the change.

The dispute has arisen over the use of inter-group dividend payments. Until recently, it had been common practice for subsidiaries to make dividend payments to their parent company and pay ACT on them. The parent company could then reclaim the tax or use it to offset its own ACT on its dividends to shareholders.

Inland Revenue inspectors, however, have now invoked anti-tax avoidance laws and denounced inter-group dividends as abnormal payments. Bill Docherty, a tax partner at Rhodes, said the firm has had to deal with several disputes in the past three months.

He said: "This is a well-established procedure and the majority of well-run groups have been employing it. We are very puzzled by what the Inland Revenue is doing."

A spokeswoman for the Inland Revenue said she was not aware of any change in policy and could not comment on any specific tax case.



Heads together: Jacques Delors wants European co-ordination of research

Delors calls for R&D funding

FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

JACQUES Delors, European Commission president, wants research and development funding made a high priority as EC industries try to overcome Japanese and American competitors.

M. Delors, normally careful to avoid the debate over an EC industrial policy, made his remarks at an impromptu press conference yesterday. He said: "We have to be able to adapt to a constantly changing world. We have to be able to help our European companies, to help their research and development."

In particular, the commis-

sion president singled out the pan-European Eureka research programme, which co-ordinates industrial research between companies in 19 countries, including the EC, the European Free Trade Association and Turkey. M. Delors said: "We have to be able to redirect programmes like Eureka."

Between 1985 and 1991, the 19 governments pumped £5.8 billion into Eureka, which has pioneered research into projects of benefit to the entire continent, such as traffic management systems. Industrial policy has al-

ways been a contentious issue with the British government, which wanted no mention of it in the Maastricht treaty, although an industrial clause was eventually added.

British officials yesterday gave a cautious welcome to M. Delors' new-found enthusiasm for R&D, but emphasised that money should be spent only on ground-breaking research.

"We're very keen on things like Eureka, but we're not interested in investing in companies that are trying to do now what they should have done five years ago," one said.

Outhwaite 'held a tiger by the tail'

LLOYD'S deputy chairman told the High Court yesterday that Richard Outhwaite, an underwriter, was "holding a tiger by the tail" when he took on asbestos-related risks that lost his names £260 million.

Richard Hazell admitted that Mr Outhwaite and others, including himself, had used "unsound methodology" to calculate their potential asbestos liability.

The losses arose after Mr Outhwaite, aged 56, took on 32 excess-of-loss reinsurance contracts covering American asbestos producers in 1981 and 1982.

An action group of 987 names is suing the Outhwaite agency and 81 members' agencies for £150 million. The group, which includes Edward Heath, Virginia Wade, Tony Jacklin and Rocco Forte, claim that negligence and breach of contract resulted in the record losses.

Under cross-examination, Mr Hazell told the court that syndicates had failed to predict the flood of asbestos claims hitting the market in the early Eighties. Consequently, underwriters had calculated their potential asbestos risks on the basis of past claims settled.

Anthony Boswood, QC, the names' counsel, said: "Asbestos was plainly a new phenomenon... was to a lesser or greater extent serious and was affecting old years of US casualty accounts."

"How could it be a sound methodology in relation to asbestos, which everyone agreed was a new phenomenon in which the past could not be regarded as a guide to the future?"

Mr Hazell replied: "Because none of us recognised how big the problem was. I strongly suspect no meaningful projection of any claims at that time would have been possible because we did not know the extent of the problem. At the time we had to close our year of account, we had no knowledge that we were, as has been said, holding a tiger by the tail."

Mr Boswood questioned how Mr Outhwaite, Mr Hazell and other underwriters could have had the "remotest degree of confidence" in their assessment of future asbestos payouts and how much to reserve for them.

Mr Hazell, an underwriter with 43 years' experience, replied: "With hindsight, you are absolutely right, but at the time we believed we had got it reserved for."

The case continues.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Willis Corroon buys 50% stake in UTA

WILLIS Corroon, the insurance broking group, has bought a half stake in UTA, one of Italy's largest brokers. The deal almost completes Willis's goal of expanding throughout the European Community.

Willis is thought to have paid between £5 million and £10 million for the stake in UTA, which last year handled retail insurance premiums of 77 billion lire (£36 million) and earned fees of £8.3 billion. The firm is based in Turin, with offices throughout northern Italy. Since its merger with Corroon & Black in 1990, Willis has rapidly built a European broking network and is now represented in every EC country except Germany. The group is said to be close to signing a deal to buy a stake in a German broker to complete its network.

Dale back in black

DALE Electric International, the Yorkshire power and lighting group, is back in the black, with first-half pre-tax profits of £497,000 (£197,000 less). Sir Tom McDonald, chairman, said every company in the group had reported an operating profit. The strength of Dale's export markets meant the group was resilient in recession. He described trading conditions, however, as "still difficult". The best performance came from the company's generating set and battery-based power system divisions, while aerospace suffered from the combined effects of recession and the Gulf war. The interim dividend was unchanged at 2p.

Aukett profit slumps

CORPORATE work and European diversification helped Aukett Associates, the architectural and design group, to limit the decline in turnover to 12 per cent in the year to September 30. The fall, to £15.6 million, compares with an average 40 per cent drop in architects' turnover, according to a recent survey. However, pre-tax profits slumped from £1.8 million to £360,000 after a £700,000 exceptional provision for reduced valuation of property. The final dividend is 0.5p (2.75p), making 1.75p (4.25p) for the year. The directors, who have 41 per cent of the ordinary share capital, are waiving their entitlement to the final dividend.

Armour lifts payout

ARMOUR Trust, the automotive accessories to confectionery group, is recommending an improved interim dividend of 0.315p (0.3p), despite a fall in first-half profits. The pre-tax figure slipped from £966,000 to £905,000 in the six months to October 31, reflecting increased interest charges. Turnover climbed from £10.9 million to £11.3 million. Andrew Balcombe, chairman, said margins were being maintained, and automotive and confectionery sales were ahead of last year. Costs continued to be reduced. Gearing was trimmed to 38 per cent, down from 50 per cent a year earlier. Earnings dipped to 2.2p (2.36p) per share.

TR asset value slips

TR Smaller Companies Investment Trust said net asset value was 148.8p-a share at the end of its first half on November 30, down from 150.2p six months earlier. The 0.9 per cent decline compared with a fall of 2.7 per cent in the FTSE All-Share Index over the same period. Earnings were 2.02p a share, compared with 2.56p in the first half of the previous year. The interim dividend is held at 1.5p a share. Revenue before taxation fell from £6.2 million to £5.01 million. Income from investments declined from £8.06 million to £7.19 million, reflecting lower dividend payments.

Total advances 41%

TOTAL, the French oil company, said net attributable profits rose 41 per cent to Fr5.8 billion last year from Fr4.1 billion in 1990. In the first quarter, margins were swollen as a result of tensions over the Gulf war, but the year ended with oil prices at low levels, resulting in stock losses. The company produced 10 per cent more oil and gas last year than a year earlier, and its reserves outside the Middle East grew 15 per cent. About 75 million tonnes of crude oil were sold, a rise of 13 per cent. Product sales were up 8 per cent to 62 million tonnes. Total has proposed a four-for-one stock split to take effect from February 10.

Offer rules on deposits

ELECTRICITY users who are made to pay deposits to suppliers before being connected should be given a clear explanation why, the Office of Electricity Regulation (Ofreg) ruled. Ofreg's ruling was issued at the request of four business customers who had been required to provide so-called security deposits before being supplied. Tony Boorman, Ofreg's consumer affairs director, said customers should be told why deposits were needed and how they were fixed. Deposits should be returned once there was no longer a risk of default. Two of the companies concerned had defaulted on payments more than once.

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British Rail chief backs Major on citizen's charter

BY DEREK HARRIS

BRITISH Rail faces the same challenges whether or not it is privatised, Sir Bob Reid, chairman, told a conference in London. He admitted that at BR, despite successes, "much remains to be done".

Sir Bob spoke after John Major, the prime minister, had told the conference of his plans to strengthen the citizen's charter. BR, Sir Bob said, had been tackling the challenge of change since 1988 with a Quality Through People programme. He had carried forward that initiative after becoming full-time chairman in 1990.

"A new feature of change is the rapid rise in customer expectations," Sir Bob said. "We know that our customers' expectations rise faster than our performance. We also know that, even in a recession, people are looking for quality as well as price competitiveness." The prime

minister's charter enshrined the sort of expectations BR customers had, he added. BR had to meet the complex demands of its customers on safety, reliability, efficiency and environment.

Sir Bob said his vision of BR was of a quality organisation delivering a quality product and of a thriving industry contributing to the prosperity of the nation. He would not be drawn on privatisation, saying that whether or not the ownership of BR changed, its management's tasks remained the same.

Its safety programme was about quality leading on to safety and was an issue for all staff. Sir Bob said: "Our aim is zero accidents and we will achieve that by concentrating on the human factors... A quality railway will, by definition, be a safe railway, but a safe railway is not necessarily a quality railway." The tragedy

of the 1988 Clapham disaster, on the one hand, and the bitterness of the 1989 strike, on the other, had driven BR to question what its management was about. If the quality programme had not been there, BR would have been forced to invent it, Sir Bob said.

BR in the Eighties had learned to control and reduce costs, yet something was missing. Reliability, cleanliness and information for the customer had remained deficient, particularly in certain places and at certain times. Staff morale was low. Sir Bob added: "We were not getting it sufficiently right. Sometimes we were getting it badly wrong."

Behaviour in the organisation was changing, he said. "We are moving from a situation where we were content to accept some margin of error to one where we get it right first time. Running a railway was 'ferpiciously complicated'."

Sir Bob believed the vision and the values were now in place but he added: "Much remains to be done. The organisational structure is high on the list." That meant matching staff numbers and skills to the task in hand.

Under-resourcing a project should not be confused with having a lean, mean organisation, he said, and added: "Exhausting our people, frustrating their best efforts and failing to recognise the limitations we have placed in their way is plain poor management. We have to ensure that it does not happen."

Vocational competence was also needed. It had been neglected but BR was keen to build ladders of opportunity for the workforce on vocational qualification lines. It would confer more workforce mobility, of both managers and staff, and give scope for talent in BR.

Making change work in BR in the past ten years had been "one of the great corporate management challenges anywhere".

The conference, on managing change in privatised industries and the public sector, was organised by *The Economist* Conferences.

Sir John Egan, chief executive of BAA, the former British Airports Authority, told the conference the company had for the time being rejected diversification as it met increased international competition and change on duty-free shopping.

His priorities were to see existing airports managed efficiently, with improved productivity and better quality of service. Retailing, especially, had to be improved, with initiatives such as the money back guarantee should an airport shop price be higher than the high street price.

Sir John said his company was in the business of satisfying its customers: the travellers who bought in airport shops (BAA's biggest single source of revenue) and the airlines that paid fees to use airports.

BT has brought forward the announcement of third-quarter figures to Thursday to allow the telecommunications group fullest scope in its forthcoming battle with OfTel, the industry regulator.

OfTel will on Thursday publish a consultative document as the first salvo in the review of BT's pricing regime, which analysts believe could lead to tightening of the amount by which the group is allowed to raise prices. BT is currently only allowed to increase prices by the rate of inflation minus 6.25 per cent, but profits have still rocketed.

The date of third-quarter figures was brought forward from February 11 because of publication of the consultative document. Under the previous timescale, BT would be precluded by stock market rules from commenting on profit implications of the OfTel paper.

agreed to sell the Merry Hill shopping centre in Dudley, West Midlands, for £125 million. The buyer is a consortium of investors led by the O'Connor Group, an American company.

With Sir Ian MacGregor, Mountleigh's latest chairman, recuperating from heart surgery in America, it fell to Jeff Warren, the finance director, to defend a sale at a price about £35 million below book value. Even after the rights issue and debt reduction was the company's top priority, Mr Warren said. "The most important thing we have got to do is to turn our assets into cash and reduce our debts."

Mr Warren pointed out that with £70 million of other property sales included, the completion of the Merry Hill disposal would take the running total on disposals to almost £200 million, with the company well on the way to meeting



High hopes: Albert Mizzi, Air Malta chairman, Bob O'Donnell, and Stephen Ross, 3i's investment director

Excalibur charter airline launched

By HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDENT

EXCALIBUR, Britain's newest charter airline, was formally launched yesterday with the claim that it will be a success despite the recession and the planned use of Airbus A320 twin-engine jets similar to the one that crashed in France last week.

The airline is backed by 3i and Air Malta, which each have a 30 per cent stake.

Already all 500,000 seats available on three leased A320s during the summer to take package holidaymakers to the eastern Mediterranean have been sold, it is claimed.

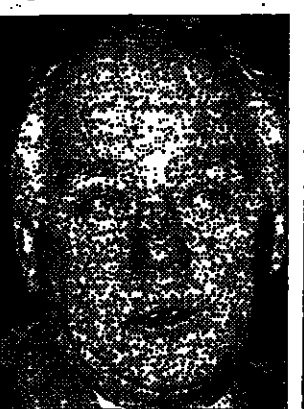
The airline's managing director is Bob O'Donnell, who recently led the collapsed Trans European Airways. He and four other former directors of TEA, the British charter arm of the failed Belgian airline, hold the rest of the shares.

Mr O'Donnell said yesterday: "British businessmen typically invest only when the market is at its peak. I can't say that is where the airline industry is today. I am confident, however, that the market is about to enter a period of sustained growth and that we will see an upsurge in holiday bookings. The timing is, therefore, right. We have no doubt about the integrity of the aircraft and we anticipate that the A320 itself will be completely exonerated in the accident investigation."

It is the first time the A320 has been used by a British airline on holiday charter flights and the new company hopes the aircraft's longer range and low operating costs, together with greater leg room for its 174 seats, will provide them with a distinct advantage in the battle for contracts from small, high-quality tour operators.

Although the Civil Aviation Authority has yet to give the airline its licence to operate, no problems are expected.

The longer range of the A320 will, it is hoped, enable the airline to fly to destinations out of range of many charter jets. By concentrating on high-yielding business, such as flights to Luxor in Egypt, the airline hopes to be profitable from the start.



Egan: priorities

Opposition mounts to Volvo merger

FROM DAVID BARTAL IN STOCKHOLM

PLANS by Volvo, the Swedish car and truck manufacturer, to merge with Procordia, the foods and pharmaceutical company, to create a conglomerate with combined assets of SKr131 billion (£12.5 billion) faced mounting opposition from the Swedish government and the financial community.

The government's privatisation commission is expected to reject the deal, clearing the way for a battle between Volvo and the government.

On Saturday, Pehr G Gyllenhammar, Volvo chairman, said that in the event of government opposition the merger could still be completed.

The Swedish Shareholders Association has advised Procordia shareholders to reject the deal. The Swedish state and Volvo each control 42.7 per cent of the votes in

Procordia. The fate of the SKr38.7 billion deal, the largest in the country's history, could be determined on May 12, at the Procordia shareholders' meeting.

Stig Malm, head of LO, the blue collar union, said at the weekend that the plan to link Volvo and Procordia was precipitated by a SKr10 billion bid by British-American Tobacco for Swedish Tobacco, a Procordia subsidiary.

Per Westerberg, the minister of industry and commerce, has not said if he favours the merger, but is apparently ready for a fight. "Even if the deal goes through, the Swedish state will still be the largest and totally dominant owner of Volvo [with 25.6 per cent of share equity]."

Comment, page 21

L&G sheds 40% of property premiums

BY NEIL BENNETT

LEGAL & General has cut its exposure to the domestic property insurance market by 40 per cent after suffering heavy losses from the sector last year.

The insurance group has laid off 40 per cent of its buildings and contents insurance premiums to a syndicate arranged through Lloyd's of London.

The move follows statements from David Prosser, the chief executive, last summer, that he wanted to reduce L&G's exposure to the general insurance market.

L&G takes in buildings and contents premiums of an estimated £250 million a year, but in the first six months of last year, the group lost £38.3 million on the business.

The group is now expected to make similar arrangements in its other general

insurance businesses, including vehicle cover.

Confirmation of the deal came as L&G announced its new business figures for 1991. These showed a 16 per cent fall in new annual premiums to £225 million because of the recession and the poor housing market. Mortgage-linked new business plunged 18 per cent to £64.4 million.

By contrast, single premium business surged 75 per cent to £1.07 billion owing to a series of investments by several company pension funds. The rise helped L&G's total investment figure for the year rise 16 per cent to a record £2.16 billion.

UK single premium life and pension new business doubled to £922 million and worldwide single premium new business rose from £608 million to £1.07 billion.

Laura Ashley signs £50m credit facility

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH

LAURA Ashley, the retail group that 18 months ago looked close to financial collapse, has signed a £50 million five-year unsecured revolving credit agreement that gives it extra long-term security. The facility replaces the existing three-year arrangement, signed in November 1990.

In August 1990, the group showed how its survival hung

on a thread as its 25 bankers were unable to agree its refinancing. The Bank of England stepped in and helped sort out the problems. In November of the same year, the balance sheet was further strengthened by the sale of a 15 per cent stake in the company to Aeon, the Japanese group, for £29 million.

The new £50 million credit has been signed by a core group of seven banks, and although it makes borrowing slightly more expensive for the group in the short term, the interest rate comes down as the group's performance improves.

The facility has a spread of rates ranging from 0.75 points above the London interbank offered rate to 1.25 points above Libor and it transfers short-term debt into long-term debt.

Andrew Higginson, the finance director, said: "This represents our banks' endorsement of the longer-term plans for the group. The fact that we have been able to arrange five-year funding in the current financial markets, and given the general state of the retail sector, is a strong vote of confidence."

Laura Ashley's shares rose 2p to 89p.

Lonrho to sell stake in MAN

Lonrho, the international trading conglomerate, is selling its interest in the MAN truck importing business in Britain to MAN Nutzfahrzeuge for £20 million. Last week it sold its 50 per cent stake in Kühne & Nagel, a German freight group.

Robert Dunlop, deputy chairman, said funds could be better deployed elsewhere. Lonrho last week shocked the City by announcing sharply lower pre-tax profits in 1991 and cutting the final dividend from 8p to 5p.

Wellcome sale

Wellcome, the pharmaceuticals group, has sold its environmental health division, which makes pesticides for healthcare-related use, for £43 million. The buyer is Roussel Uclaf, the French chemicals business. The division, which operates in 18 countries, had sales of £84 million in the last financial year.

Zigomala slips

Stavert Zigomala, the Manchester investment to furniture retailing and wholesaling group, reported a fall in pre-tax profits from £33,567 to £23,623 in the half year to September 30. Turnover edged up slightly, from £372,678 to £384,347. As usual, there is no interim dividend.

Howden order

Howden, the engineering group, has won a \$121 million order for boiler fans and air heaters as part of a \$770-million contract for a power plant at Arak, Iran. Delivery starts in the second half of 1993 and will take two years to complete.

BT brings figures forward

BT has brought forward the announcement of third-quarter figures to Thursday to allow the telecommunications group fullest scope in its forthcoming battle with OfTel, the industry regulator.

OfTel will on Thursday publish a consultative document as the first salvo in the review of BT's pricing regime, which analysts believe could lead to tightening of the amount by which the group is allowed to raise prices. BT is currently only allowed to increase prices by the rate of inflation minus 6.25 per cent, but profits have still rocketed.

The date of third-quarter figures was brought forward from February 11 because of publication of the consultative document. Under the previous timescale, BT would be precluded by stock market rules from commenting on profit implications of the OfTel paper.

Halfway results show £70m pre-tax loss

Mountleigh plunges into the red

BY MATTHEW BOND

MOUNTLEIGH, the property company never far from controversy, has reported a pre-tax loss of £70.6 million for the six months to end-October, compared with a profit of £12 million in the same period last year.

Yesterday's losses come only six months after the company raised £96 million through a rights issue and only three months after its chairman and three joint managing directors resigned.

Three of those four former executives — Nelson Peltz, Peter May and Marc Leland — remain with the company as non-executive directors and share a common interest in a 29 per cent stake. As such, the three Americans were the biggest losers from the board's decision to pass the interim dividend (1.25p).

The interim losses were accompanied by confirmation that the group had

agreed to sell the Merry Hill shopping centre in Dudley, West Midlands, for £125 million. The buyer is a consortium of investors led by the O'Connor Group, an American company.

With Sir Ian MacGregor, Mountleigh's latest chairman, recuperating from heart surgery in America, it fell to Jeff Warren, the finance director, to defend a sale at a price about £35 million below book value. Even after the rights issue and debt reduction was the company's top priority, Mr Warren said. "The most important thing we have got to do is to turn our assets into cash and reduce our debts."

Mr Warren pointed out that with £70 million of other property sales included, the completion of the Merry Hill disposal would take the running total on disposals to almost £200 million, with the company well on the way to meeting

its target of £400 million of disposals in two years. "I think we're doing pretty well," Mr Warren said.

With the exception of £24 million that will be used to meet a deferred acquisition payment, the proceeds of the Merry Hill sale, which will require shareholder approval, will be used to reduce debt from the half-year end level of £526 million.

Sales at Galerías Preciados, Mountleigh's Spanish retail chain, rose 6.9 per cent to £227 million, but the division reported an operating loss of £1.9 million, after an increase in its rental charge.

Mr Warren said the company was confident of a return to profit in the second half. "Underlying trading has performed well, albeit in a more difficult retail climate in Spain," he said.

Tempos, page 20

THE COUNTDOWN HAS BEGUN...

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Traders pay for ERM error

Last year's current account deficit of £5.8 billion may have been slightly better than the £6.5 billion the Chancellor expected, but in a year of severe recession, a deficit equivalent to 1.2 per cent of GDP can hardly be described as good news. Whatever the official boosters may say, last year's trade performance suggests that Britain entered the ERM at a dangerously overvalued exchange rate and that manufacturers and exporters are only now beginning to pay for John Major's mistake.

The Treasury can play all sorts of games with quarterly and monthly statistics, but the fact is that annual export volumes, excluding oil and erratic items, were only 2.1 per cent higher in 1991 than in 1990. This compared unfavourably with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's estimated growth rates of 3.3 per cent for total world trade volumes and 2.5 per cent for OECD countries' average export volumes. In other words, British companies lost world market share last year, despite the pressure on them to export to compensate for the collapse of domestic demand. The intensity of that pressure was well illustrated by yesterday's figures on export prices. These rose only 0.2 per cent in 1991 as a whole and actually fell 1 per cent in the year to the fourth quarter.

Last year's 2.2 per cent export growth also compared unfavourably with Treasury projections of 3.2 per cent growth in the autumn statement. Even if the OECD is right in its prediction that world trade will grow by 5.7 per cent in 1992, and this prediction looks over-optimistic, Britain will be lucky to achieve even half the 7.7 per cent export growth that the Treasury forecast for this year.

Thus, Britain clearly still has an export problem. A country facing a severe balance of payments problem has only two options: to devalue its currency or to repress domestic demand. The government's exhortations to improve product quality and reduce pay settlements might mitigate the trade problem by the end of the decade, but a balance of payments crisis may creep up on Britain much sooner than that. If British industry fails to pull itself up by the bootstraps, devaluation or recession will be the only choice.

Swedish upset

Cari Bildt, Sweden's new prime minister, swept to office last year with a conservative coalition intent on deregulating and privatising the former social democratic paradise in a manner that warmed the heart of many a Thatcherite. Swedish industry, which had long hoped for such a turning point, naturally lauded the immediate publication of an extensive list of state assets to be sold off.

Yet industry's enchantment with its new political masters has already started to wear off. Carriaker Volvo's £3.7 billion merger with Procordia, the food and pharmaceuticals group, announced on Saturday, demonstrated that the barons of the corporate sector have a very different timetable in mind to that envisaged by Mr Bildt.

Wider share ownership and enhanced competition may be fine principles for the politicians, but they do not impress Swedish big business. Sweden's industrialists want to ensure that Mr Bildt's privatisations benefit them, not their foreign rivals.

With a holding of only 34.2 per cent in Procordia, government cannot block the Volvo plan, but if it loses control of its privatisation programme at this stage, the country's corporate vultures will tear the fleshy state portfolio apart on their terms.

Tokyo looks for hands-off solution to Nikkei decline

Joanna Pitman reports on how recent scandals have left the Japanese government with a dilemma as it watches share prices fall

Members of the securities bureau of Japan's ministry of finance were to be found toiling at their desks long past midnight most nights last week, trying to put together a package of measures to rescue the Tokyo stock market from the series of spiralling declines in which it appears to be caught.

The mood in the powerful securities bureau seems to be one of considerable anxiety. According to one senior member of the bureau: "We are working to all hours trying to come up with a solution." However, last week's stock market "crisis", as it is known in the ministry, has happened before. Only a few weeks ago, the same hard-working bureaucrats were to be found, caught somewhat ingloriously in the swimming pool at his health club, fielding a series of emergency telephone calls from his boss on the same subject.

The ministry's deep concern lies with the giddy and apparently uncontrolled declines in the Nikkei average. Since reaching a high of 38,915.38 on the last trading day of 1989, the Nikkei has fallen gradually over two years and has recently plummeted perilously close to 20,000, an accepted psychological barrier which, if broken, could prompt panic selling.

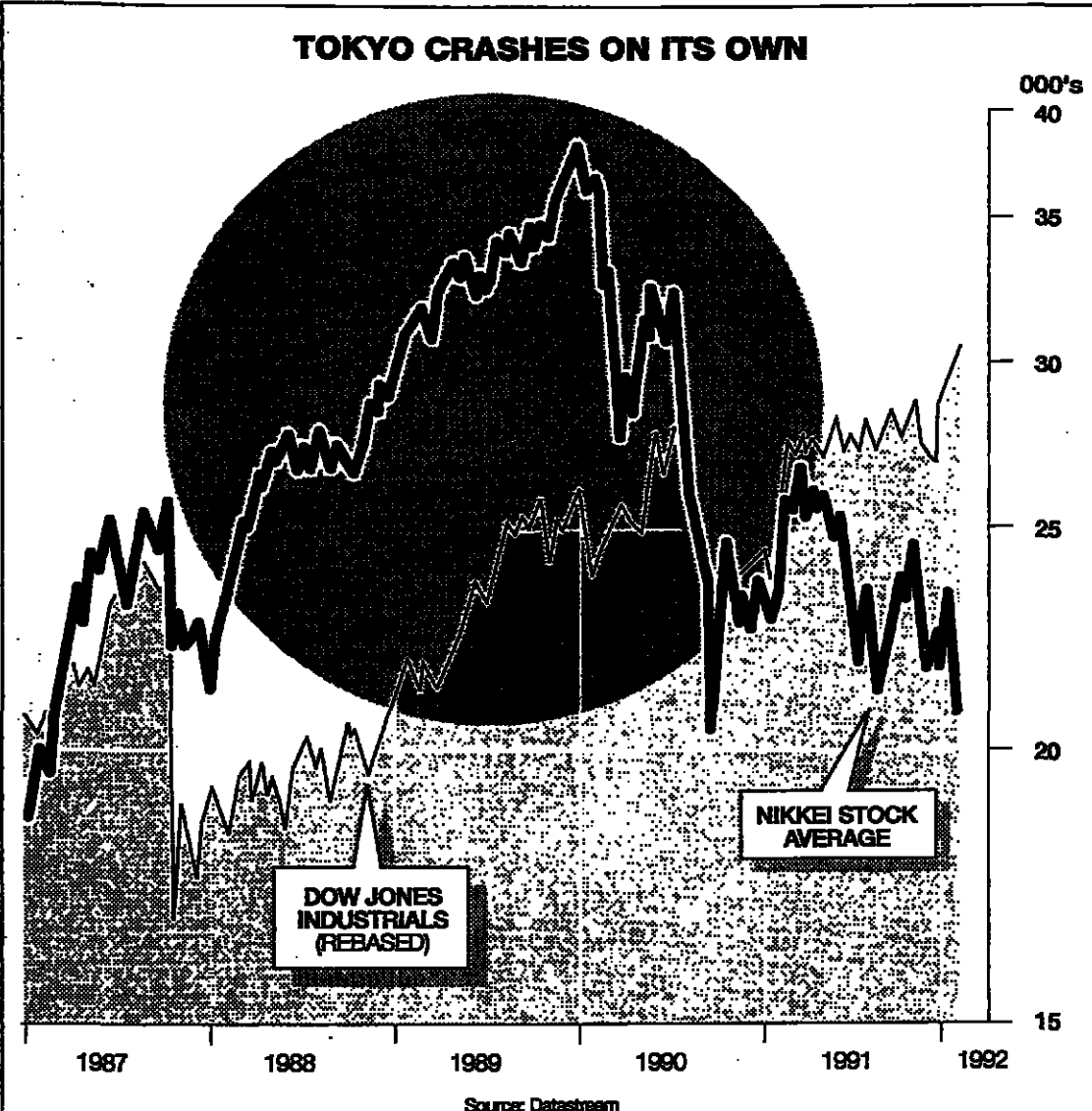
In the past, Japan's financial authorities were automatically expected to come to the rescue of an ailing Nikkei average, seen as the barometer of Japan's economic health, by arranging and co-ordinating large stock-buying drives among the "big four" securities houses — Nomura, Daiwa, Nikko and Yamaichi.

Today, the finance ministry and the Bank of Japan are still recovering from a barrage of international criticism over their market intervention policies, revealed last summer during a series of damaging stock market scandals. This limits their direct power to boost stock prices.

The financial authorities clearly do not want to be caught out manipulating the market or intervening in the activities of their constituents, but it is difficult to believe that they intend to let market forces take their course. The recent level of late night activity in the securities bureau would suggest that even if the ministry is not directly calling the shots, it is probably leaning on its senior constituents to do so.

The securities bureau official said: "We cannot arrange meetings with the big four to push up the market because we are not allowed to do that any more. I think the big four are getting together themselves, though, to work out a strategy to save the market."

After years of bowing to authoritative guidance in similar times of trouble, the big four are understood



in Tokyo to be planning to launch a huge fund of individual investors' money to inflate share prices with concerted buying. The potential for saving the market is in no doubt, as Japan's total individually-owned assets, which might be available for such a special stock fund, are worth a million billion yen (£4,400 billion).

Bernard Siman, analyst at Jardine Fleming Securities in Tokyo, said: "If the securities industry managed to attract even 1 per cent of that, they would have a buying power of ¥10,000 billion. That would be almost twice the £24 billion of foreign investors' money that entered the market in 1991 and saved it from total collapse."

Mr Siman believes that the big four will soon be returning to the retail end of the business, the market upon which they originally built their empire, and which has been neglected of late in favour of the more lucrative but more scandal-prone institutional and corporate business.

Nomura, by far the biggest of the four, agrees. A spokesman said: "We are planning to concentrate our efforts more on profits for the customers, and in particular on the individual customer. That was always our traditional business." According to market analysts, the

Tokyo stock market's basic arithmetic is sound and belies slumping stock prices. Kathy Matsui, strategist for BZW Securities Tokyo, said: "Fundamentals are reasonably secure and we have already had most of the bad news on the economy."

Some lay the blame at the feet of the politicians. Mr Siman said: "Japan is suffering from a lack of political leadership. There is a curious paralysis over political decision making, and this is doing much damage to confidence in the market." Kiichi Miyazawa, the prime minister, yesterday spent his first day in the newly opened session of the diet (Japan's parliament) fielding a barrage of opposition questions on political corruption scandals.

Given the contentious and unruly nature of the opposition, few expect Mr Miyazawa to be able to pass the 1992-3 budget bill, the main piece of diet business, and some political analysts are already predicting that he will be forced to step down this spring, after just six months in office.

The only market participants enjoying the wild sawing of the Nikkei average are the foreign securities houses in Tokyo. The low trading volumes, which have

slumped to an average of below 300 million trades a day, compared to more than a billion in 1989, and a high degree of volatility have brought considerable profits to the foreigners through trading stock index futures.

The Japanese securities houses, unaccustomed to this technically complex type of trading, have been uncharacteristically losing business to the foreigners on their home turf. In the first half of the fiscal year ended September 30, six of the ten most profitable securities firms in Japan were foreign. Salomon Brothers and Morgan Stanley, which earn much of their Tokyo profits through stock index futures trading, occupied the third and fourth places, ahead of Nikko Securities and Yamaichi Securities.

Rumours doing the rounds in Kabutocho, Tokyo's equivalent of the City, hint that the finance ministry and the Bank of Japan are concerned that stock index futures trading is only aggravating the volatility of the market, and that they are planning to introduce regulations to limit this lucrative business.

Some analysts prefer the theory, however, that the authorities are simply sore that their own mighty securities houses are losing too much politically sensitive ground to the foreigners.

Surge in buyout activity forecast

Ask a barber if you need a haircut and the answer is usually yes. Ask a venture capitalist whether now is the time to employ his services and you might reasonably expect the same response.

Yet Eric Walters, a partner of Schroder Ventures, believes that the management buyout (MBO) industry is set for a busy year, after a couple of years during which high interest rates and the well-publicised difficulties of companies such as Magnet and Lowndes Queensway have kept it in the doldrums.

Schroder, an associate of the merchant bank, claims that a tracking of the relationship between average price-earnings ratios and interest rates suggests that as 1992 continues, the climate will increasingly favour buyouts.

Mr Walters inevitably rejects suggestions, therefore, that the MBO is dead, although he accepts that "mega-deals" are almost impossible to get off the ground, and concedes that the climate might be even better next year.

His group does between one and five deals, of £10 million and above, a year. With three buyouts already looking likely to come to fruition, he said 1992 is looking like a bumper year. He added: "The feel of it is that we're heading for a good, solid, busy year, with some quite large sums of money put away. There are recession opportunities out there. There's cash pressure on companies that want to get rid of the odd division and company."

Price-earnings ratios approaching an average of 15 on the stock market — which influence the amount vendors want for their businesses — relatively high real interest rates and a banking sector running too scared to provide the necessary loan element might not look like a recipe for an MBO boom. However, Mr Walters claimed there are deals around, unlike in the past couple of years when the group had seen a dearth of business or 1989, when only one buyout came to completion. He said: "There is no shortage of management groups coming through the door."

Schroder will shortly announce a £100 million buyout in the extractive industries sector, one apparently peculiarly susceptible to political risk. The deal was examined in the light of either a Conservative or a Labour election victory and remained viable in either scenario.

On fundamentals, Mr Walters said the light for the MBO was currently at amber. His outlook for the year is based on three assumptions: a falling stock market driving price-earnings ratios lower, a gradual drifting down in interest rates and a banking sector cautiously edging back into the market once the write-offs from earlier disasters are out of the way. He said: "They will be looking for businesses again in the normal cyclical way."

On that basis, the light could be green by the end of the year.

MARTIN WALLER

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Dixons finds Tokyo chief

STANLEY Kalms, chairman of Dixons, the electrical stores group, seems ready to put his recent trading difficulties in America behind him by forging closer links with Japan. Kalms, who three weeks ago revealed a 36 per cent fall in half-year profits at Dixons, fuelled by losses at its American stores, has installed a top Japanese businessman as chairman of its operations in Tokyo. Yasuo Ishizaka, aged 63, has never been in the home electronics business, but he has some impressive connections. His father was the first post-war president of Toshiba; one of his brothers is chairman of Kenwood; another is the former head of Toshiba USA; and Ishizaka's son works for Sony — one of Dixons' biggest suppliers. Kalms handed the task of finding a candidate to Mark Souhami, his deputy chairman, who called in Goddard Kay Rogers, the largest British-owned executive search company. Ironically, OKR found Ishizaka through its New York office, so the American experience has not been all bad.

Council to counsel

THE next time Mick Newmarch, head of the mighty Prudential financial services group, calls for counsel, his remarks could cause some confusion. For he has appointed Derek Cunnell, head of legal services at Guinness for the past five years, to lead his streamlined legal team. Prudential, Britain's largest insurance company, has spent the past nine



"Hello — Mountie here — is that the lost property office?"

months restructuring its legal section into a small team. Cunnell, aged 54, who read law at Cambridge and previously spent 18 years at Imperial Foods, says: "I joined Guinness on the same day as Anthony Tennant and Michael Jullien."

PERHAPS we are coming out of recession after all. A record 10 per cent of unemployed executives on the books of a City outplacement consultancy, have found new jobs since the Christmas break — usually a time of no movement in the recruitment market. DGM, the consultancy, placed them all in the space of only a week — hopefully making up for months of inactivity last year.

Path to approval

YORKSHIRE Water, mindful of the need to make money for its shareholders, is always on the lookout for new investments — some more viable than others. It seems. Nature lovers in Yorkshire had their

suspicions when the water company requested permission to spend £2,323 on a scenic footpath around Embay reservoir near Skipton. This was all very well, but a second request put to the Yorkshire Dale National Park committee was rather less scenic. It involved plans for a water sports centre on Grimwith reservoir near Graftingham, including a clubhouse, hotel, car park, changing facilities and sewage treatment plant. Only one of the schemes was given the thumbs up — the footpath.

LOYDS Bank, hit by loan write-offs, is cashing in on the sudden rise in white collar unemployment by offering part-time jobs paying £4 an hour. The jobs are aimed at housewives wanting pin-money for selling "simple" general insurance policies through bank branches.

Wedding bells

THE City usually resembles a ghost town at the weekend, unless someone steps in to liven things up. On Sunday, Anna Roden, a fund manager at Mercury Asset Management, and Clive Wolman, city editor of the Mail on Sunday, were formally married at Bevis Marks synagogue. Roden, aged 26, whose mother is Claudia Roden of culinary fame, met Wolman, aged 35, at a blind date lunch in a restaurant near the London Stock Exchange. After a reception in the Barbican Centre, the couple flew off for a three-week honeymoon in Chile and Argentina — not your typical honeymoon destinations.

JON ASHWORTH

The sacred cow of unlimited liability at Lloyd's of London

From Mr P. A. English

Sir, There was an interesting juxtaposition in your columns (January 22). In your City Comment, you stated that one of the implications of the Rowland report would be the eventual demise of unlimited liability. In the Letters to the Editor was a letter from Mr Ian Findlay, a past chairman of Lloyd's, during whose chairmanship the Sasse Syndicate losses incurred by a comparatively small number of names in the late 1970s were paid for by the rest of the then membership.

From this moment on, I don't really believe that anybody connected with Lloyd's seriously believed in the sacred cow of unlimited liability.

Sadly, the Council of Lloyd's is perceived to be damned if it does or does not act, depending on a particular group of members' views and underwriting experience and it really seems that most, if not all, of the leaders of the various action groups and their supporters wish their losses to be paid for by someone else.

No matter how much one sympathises with many of these names' plight, the increasingly litigious stance taken by names generally, abetted by the persuasive words of lawyers, ("They would, wouldn't they," to paraphrase the words of a famous 1960's courtesan) makes one begin to despair of Lloyd's ability in a democratic society, to ever solve the problems of the past.

One thing is clear, you cannot, I think, pay names' losses today without arousing the immediate interest of the In-

land Revenue; nor can you hope to shift the onus of losses from one group of names to another, which is, one fears, the aim of the many names' action groups, whose leaders perceive, rightly or wrongly, the hope of pinning responsibility of their losses upon others, whether they be underwriting agents or brokers and, therefore, possibly a completely different group of names on the syndicates concerned, who underwrote the errors and omissions policies for these organisations.

There was a time when the market as a whole would have worked together to solve these problems for the good of everyone (not just the so called "insiders"), but so much is the market in the power of the legal profession, that even attempts to negotiate settlements, without recourse to expensive litigation, could and probably would result in avoidance of errors and omissions cover.

There are rich pickings to be made from Lloyd's over the next decade or so by the lawyers and there is little, if anything, that anyone, with the best interests of Lloyd's at heart, can do about it under the present status quo.

As Mr Findlay rightly points out, Lloyd's has done an enormous amount to put its house in order, but sadly it will never be enough for some of its disenchanted names and their advisers, nor for that matter certain areas of the press who can, and no doubt will, continue to hurl cheap and inaccurate criticism at it with impunity.

Yours faithfully,
P. A. ENGLISH,
51 Argyle Road, W8

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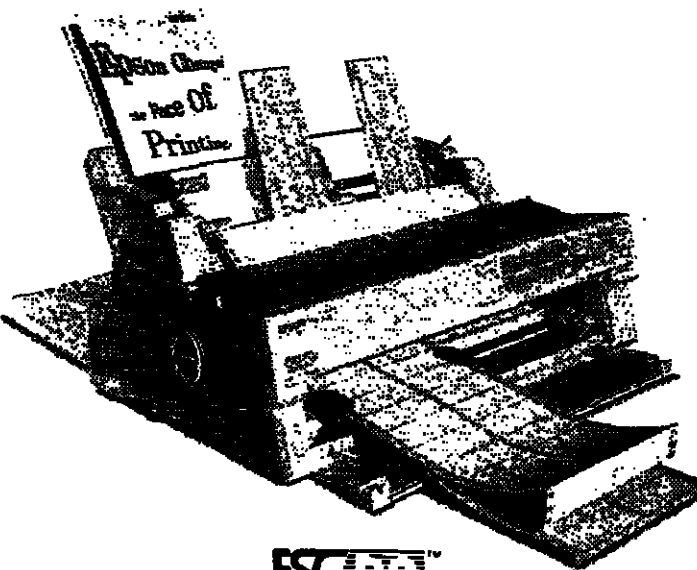
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A short break here for questions: Can I print text of different



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sizes (scalable fonts in other words) on the same page? Yes, you can. Can I add high quality graphics to that at the same time? Yes, you can. Do I get a tortoise? No, you get a print speed 32% up on any of our previous LQ's.

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No	Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield
1	Wm Bowles	100	10	10%
2	Transport Dev	100	10	10%
3	Chemical	100	10	10%
4	Wm Bowles	100	10	10%
5	Chemical	100	10	10%
6	Wm Bowles	100	10	10%
7	Chemical	100	10	10%
8	Wm Bowles	100	10	10%
9	Chemical	100	10	10%
10	Wm Bowles	100	10	10%
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46	Wm Bowles	100	10	10%
47	Chemical	100	10	10%
48	Wm Bowles	100	10	10%
49	Chemical	100	10	10%
50	Wm Bowles	100	10	10%

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2	HSBC Bank	100	10	10%
3	Bank of Scotland	100	10	10%
4	Bank of Ireland	100	10	10%
5	Bank of America	100	10	10%
6	Bank of England	100	10	10%
7	Bank of France	100	10	10%
8	Bank of Germany	100	10	10%
9	Bank of Italy	100	10	10%
10	Bank of Japan	100	10	10%
11	Bank of Korea	100	10	10%
12	Bank of Russia	100	10	10%
13	Bank of Spain	100	10	10%
14	Bank of Sweden	100	10	10%
15	Bank of Switzerland	100	10	10%
16	Bank of Taiwan	100	10	10%
17	Bank of Thailand	100	10	10%
18	Bank of Turkey	100	10	10%
19	Bank of the Netherlands	100	10	10%
20	Bank of Belgium	100	10	10%
21	Bank of Luxembourg	100	10	10%
22	Bank of Greece	100	10	10%
23	Bank of Portugal	100	10	10%
24	Bank of Austria	100	10	10%
25	Bank of Czech Republic	100	10	10%
26	Bank of Slovakia	100	10	10%
27	Bank of Hungary	100	10	10%
28	Bank of Poland	100	10	10%
29	Bank of Romania	100	10	10%
30	Bank of Bulgaria	100	10	10%
31	Bank of Yugoslavia	100	10	10%
32	Bank of Albania	100	10	10%
33	Bank of Georgia	100	10	10%
34	Bank of Armenia	100	10	10%
35	Bank of Azerbaijan	100	10	10%
36	Bank of Uzbekistan	100	10	10%
37	Bank of Kazakhstan	100	10	10%
38	Bank of Kyrgyzstan	100	10	10%
39	Bank of Tajikistan	100	10	10%
40	Bank of Turkmenistan	100	10	10%
41	Bank of Moldova	100	10	10%
42	Bank of Ukraine	100	10	10%
43	Bank of Belarus	100	10	10%
44	Bank of Latvia	100	10	10%
45	Bank of Lithuania	100	10	10%
46	Bank of Estonia	100	10	10%
47	Bank of Finland	100	10	10%
48	Bank of Denmark	100	10	10%
49	Bank of Norway	100	10	10%
50	Bank of Sweden	100	10	10%

BREWERIES

No	Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield
1	Adnams	100	10	10%
2	Beck's	100	10	10%
3	Carlsberg	100	10	10%
4	Heineken	100	10	10%
5	Kaiser Brewery	100	10	10%
6	Miller Brewing	100	10	10%
7	Pilsener	100	10	10%
8	Stout	100	10	10%
9	Tottenham	100	10	10%
10	Watney	100	10	10%
11	Wheat	100	10	10%
12	Yeast	100	10	10%
13	Barley	100	10	10%
14	Hops	100	10	10%
15	Grain	100	10	10%
16	Malting	100	10	10%
17	Brewing	100	10	10%
18	Distilling	100	10	10%
19	Winemaking	100	10	10%
20	Spirits	100	10	10%
21	Vineyard	100	10	10%
22	Winery	100	10	10%
23	Distillery	100	10	10%
24	Winery	100	10	10%
25	Distillery	100	10	10%
26	Winery	100	10	10%
27	Distillery	100	10	10%
28	Winery	100	10	10%
29	Distillery	100	10	10%
30	Winery	100	10	10%

BUILDING, ROADS

No	Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield
1	Amey	100	10	10%
2	Balfour Beatty	100	10	10%
3	Bechtel	100	10	10%
4	Booth	100	10	10%
5	Chubb	100	10	10%
6	Combe	100	10	10%
7	Costain	100	10	10%
8	Day	100	10	10%
9	Ellis	100	10	10%
10	Farrel	100	10	10%
11	Frederick	100	10	10%
12	Gardiner	100	10	10%
13	Hill	100	10	10%
14	James	100	10	10%
15	Kier	100	10	10%
16	Laing	100	10	10%
17	Mowlem	100	10	10%
18	Parsons	100	10	10%
19	Robert	100	10	10%
20	Shoebrook	100	10	10%
21	Skidmore	100	10	10%
22	Stirling	100	10	10%
23	Taylor	100	10	10%
24	Thames	100	10	10%
25	Ward	100	10	10%
26	Waters	100	10	10%
27	Worle	100	10	10%
28	Worle	100	10	10%
29	Worle	100	10	10%
30	Worle	100	10	10%

Strong start to account

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began yesterday. Dealings end February 7. Contango day February 10. Settlement day February 17. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1991/92 High Low Company Price Div % Yld P/E

No	Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield
1	Adnams	100	10	10%
2	Beck's	100	10	10%
3	Carlsberg	100	10	10%
4	Heineken	100	10	10%
5	Kaiser Brewery	100	10	10%
6	Miller Brewing	100	10	10%
7	Pilsener	100	10	10%
8	Stout	100	10	10%
9	Tottenham	100	10	10%
10	Watney	100	10	10%
11	Wheat	100	10	10%
12	Yeast	100	10	10%
13	Barley	100	10	10%
14	Hops	100	10	10%
15	Grain	100	10	10%
16	Malting	100	10	10%
17	Brewing	100	10	10%
18	Distilling	100	10	10%
19	Winemaking	100	10	10%
20	Spirits	100	10	10%
21	Vineyard	100	10	10%
22	Winery	100	10	10%
23	Distillery	100	10	10%
24	Winery	100	10	10%
25	Distillery	100	10	10%
26	Winery	100	10	10%
27	Distillery	100	10	10%
28	Winery	100	10	10%
29	Distillery	100	10	10%
30	Winery	100	10	10%

ELECTRICITY

No	Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield
1	Adnams	100	10	10%
2	Beck's	100	10	10%
3	Carlsberg	100	10	10%
4	Heineken	100	10	10%
5	Kaiser Brewery	100	10	10%
6	Miller Brewing	100	10	10%
7	Pilsener	100	10	10%
8	Stout	100	10	10%
9	Tottenham	100	10	10%
10	Watney	100	10	10%
11	Wheat	100	10	10%
12	Yeast	100	10	10%
13	Barley	100	10	10%
14	Hops	100	10	10%
15	Grain	100	10	10%
16	Malting	100	10	10%
17	Brewing	100	10	10%
18	Distilling	100	10	10%
19	Winemaking	100	10	10%
20	Spirits	100	10	10%
21	Vineyard	100	10	10%
22	Winery	100	10	10%
23	Distillery	100	10	10%
24	Winery	100	10	10%
25	Distillery	100	10	10%
26	Winery	100	10	10%
27	Distillery	100	10	10%
28	Winery	100	10	10%
29	Distillery	100	10	10%
30	Winery	100	10	10%

FINANCE, LAND

No	Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield
1	Adnams	100	10	10%
2	Beck's	100	10	10%
3	Carlsberg	100	10	10%
4	Heineken	100	10	10%
5	Kaiser Brewery	100	10	10%
6	Miller Brewing	100	10	10%
7	Pilsener	100	10	10%
8	Stout	100	10	10%
9	Tottenham	100	10	10%
10	Watney	100	10	10%
11	Wheat	100	10	10%
12	Yeast	100	10	10%
13	Barley	100	10	10%
14	Hops	100	10	10%
15	Grain	100	10	10%
16	Malting	100	10	10%
17	Brewing	100	10	10%
18	Distilling	100	10	10%
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21	Vineyard	100	10	10%
22	Winery	100	10	10%
23	Distillery	100	10	10%
24	Winery	100	10	10%
25	Distillery	100	10	10%
26	Winery	100	10	10%
27	Distillery	100	10	10%
28	Winery	100	10	10%
29	Distillery	100	10	10%
30	Winery	100	10	10%

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

No	Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield
1	Adnams	100	10	10%
2	Beck's	100	10	10%
3	Carlsberg	100	10	10%
4	Heineken	100	10	10%
5	Kaiser Brewery	100	10	10%
6	Miller Brewing	100	10	10%

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Exchange index compared with 1985 was down at 90.5 (day's range 90.5-90.7).

Mile Rates for Jan 27	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.2274-3.2345	3.2309-3.2345	3-4yr	3-4yr
Brussels	58.94-59.24	59.03-59.24	7-2yr	17-12yr
Copenhagen	11.1009-11.1348	11.1107-11.1348	3-4yr	13-1yr

Minneapolis	2,591-2,636	2,593-2,596	1-500	0-600
Monterey	2,090-2,101	2,092-2,093	0.65-0.65pr	1.28-1.21pr
New York	1,785-1,792	1,786-1,787	0.96-0.95pr	2.75-2.73pr
Oslo	11,231-11,268	11,247-11,268	4-4pr	4-4pr
Paris	9,761-9,783	9,779-9,783	4-4pr	4-4pr

FORM NO. 10-67 (REV. 11-29-64) GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

Cyprus pound	0.803-0.813	Denmark	6.2200-6.2250
Finland marks	7.7975-7.8575	France	5.4770-5.4820
Greece drachma	329.50-333.10	Germany	1.6040-1.6050
Hong Kong dollar	13.8578-13.8675	Hong Kong	7.7570-7.7580

New Zealand dollar	3.4100-3.424	Netherlands	1.8070-1.8080
Saudi Arabia riyal	6.6675-6.7475	Norway	6.2950-6.3000
Singapore dollar	2.9180-2.9215	Portugal	138.20-138.40
S Africa rand (fin)	5.6858-5.7812	Singapore	1.6334-1.6344

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 10¢. Finance Hse 11

[illegible]

ECGD: Fixed-Rate Sterling Finance: Make-up day: Dec 31, 1991 Agreed

Currency	7 day	1 month	3 month	6 month	Call
Dollar	44-34	42-32 ^{1/2}	42-32 ^{1/2}	44-4	43-4
Deutschmark	04-03	04-02	04-04	04-04	04-04

Bullion: Open \$354.80-355.20 • Close \$355.70-356.20 • High \$356.20-356.70

the 1990s, the number of people in the United States who are 65 years of age or older is projected to increase from 20 million to 35 million, and the number of people 75 years of age or older is projected to increase from 10 million to 15 million (U.S. Census Bureau, 1996). The number of people 85 years of age or older is projected to increase from 2 million to 4 million (U.S. Census Bureau, 1996). The number of people 90 years of age or older is projected to increase from 500,000 to 1 million (U.S. Census Bureau, 1996). The number of people 95 years of age or older is projected to increase from 100,000 to 200,000 (U.S. Census Bureau, 1996). The number of people 100 years of age or older is projected to increase from 10,000 to 20,000 (U.S. Census Bureau, 1996).

Crystal Palace lose patience with England man

Angry Coppell puts Gray on the transfer list

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

ANDY Gray, the England international midfielder player, is set to leave Crystal Palace after suffering a stinging rebuke from his manager, Steve Coppell, and being placed on the transfer list. Coppell yesterday accused Gray of casting a cloud over first-team training sessions and having an adverse effect on other players at Selhurst Park.

"I think I'd lose the respect of the vast majority of the other players if I allowed it to continue," Coppell said. "Gray has been at odds with me and the club for quite a while. He hasn't really participated from a training point of view for more than six weeks, and I feel I should do something about it."

"His recent performances have been way short of what he is capable of. I hope this will give him the appreciation that he has at Palace and make him want to perform for the club rather than himself."

Gray, who was capped for the first time two months ago

in England's European championship qualifying game against Poland in Poznan, recently signed an improved contract with Palace. Indeed, earlier this season, the club rejected approaches from Chelsea with a view to a £1 million transfer.

Since then, however, the relationship between club and player have soured. "He should be one of the best players in the country," Coppell said. "He should be playing for England. He has got to get himself sorted out. I can only turn a blind eye to his attitude in training for so long. I hope he buckles down. If not, someone else can try to get the best out of him."

Gray responded: "I don't want to get into a slanging match with Palace. It's best to let them have their say and see what happens. I wasn't expecting to be put on the transfer list today. I've been happy with my performances and I'll continue to do my best for the club until things develop — if they develop."

"I don't know what they are asking for me, but if I do leave it will be for professional and not financial reasons."

Gray, who in his second spell at Selhurst Park, cost £500,000 from Queen's Park Rangers in August 1989 and immediately helped Palace into the FA Cup final. He has also played for Aston Villa.

Terry Venables yesterday effectively ruled another England midfielder man, Paul Gascoigne, out of the European championship finals in Sweden this summer. The chief executive of Tottenham Hotspur revealed Gascoigne, who is working his way back to fitness after severely injuring his knee in last season's FA Cup final, is unlikely to be playing again until mid-April.

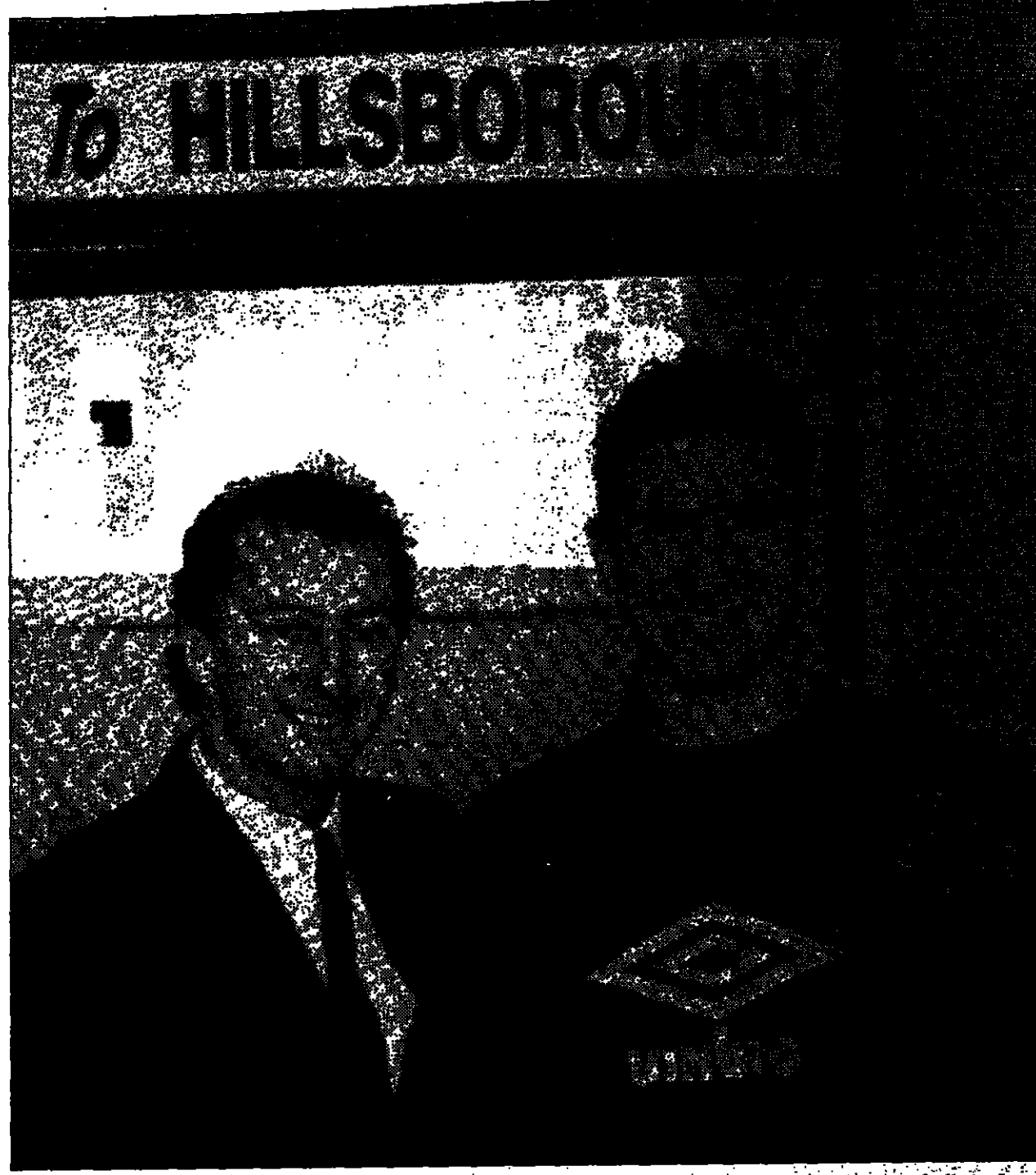
That is a month after the deadline the England manager, Graham Taylor, laid down for Gascoigne to recover and earn a place in his squad. Gascoigne had said he was hoping to be fit in time for Tottenham's European Cup Winners' Cup fixture with Feyenoord, of The Netherlands, on March 4.

"Gascoigne would want to play as soon as possible, but we must follow the medical guidance of the professionals," Venables said. "No medical official of Spurs has set a time target for full fitness. He has made excellent progress under very close supervision and, whilst things look positive, we would not envisage any level of competitive football until mid-April."

Alan Ball was yesterday invited by Taylor to help England's preparations for the finals in Sweden. Ball will help with the build-up to the games against France on February 19. "I've invited Alan to join us because of his tremendous enthusiasm and commitment to the game," Taylor said.

The Hungarian international, Istvan Kozma, is having a week's trial with Liverpool. Kozma, aged 27, a midfielder player, is presently under contract with Dunfermline Athletic, the Scottish club, and has long been admired by the Liverpool manager, Graeme Souness.

"I know a great deal about him from my days at Rangers," Souness said yesterday. "He is an international who had experience at the top level with Bordeaux."



Ready for duty: Francis introduces Cantona to Hillsborough and the start of his loan period

Cantona is made welcome

BY IAN ROSS

FOR a man who, in the past, has derived immense personal satisfaction from promoting an image of youthful rebellion, Eric Cantona cut a figure of diplomatic innocence yesterday.

Cantona marked his arrival in England with just one, distinctly low key, display of petulance. He refused to allow French journalists and photographers to attend a press conference which had been convened at Hillsborough to announce the start of his loan period with Sheffield Wednesday.

If the gifted but notoriously unpredictable Cantona can impress Trevor Francis, the Wednesday manager, over the next six days, he will remain at the club until the end of the season.

Should he prosper on the field while successfully inte-

grating himself into the South Yorkshire community, a permanent move between Nimes, his present club, and Wednesday is a distinct possibility. The clubs have already provisionally agreed on a transfer fee of around £900,000.

Until last week, when Francis sought to compensate for the loss, through injury, of David Hirst, the England international forward, by inviting Cantona to these shores, the self-styled enfant terrible of the French game was resigned to pursuing a career outside sport following his retirement from professional football in November.

A chequered career which had embraced brief spells at five leading French clubs appeared to be over when he announced that he was unwilling to accept a suspension imposed for throwing the ball at a referee, a sentence which

was subsequently doubled for a verbal assault on the disciplinary committee which had gathered to discuss the initial offence. That sentence was halved in France yesterday.

Cantona, who has scored 14 goals in 21 appearances for his country, conceded yesterday that but for Francis's surprising intervention it is conceivable he would have been prematurely lost to football. Speaking through Jean Jacques Bertrand, his solicitor, who undertook the role of interpreter, Cantona said: "I had decided not to play again, until, that was, Sheffield Wednesday gave me this chance. I would not have played in Spain or Italy — only in England."

"I want to prove something in English football and show my talent. The English game is very physical and is a lot less tactical than it is in France. Playing in this sum-

mer's European championships for my country is very important to me because that is the pinnacle of achievement for any footballer."

Francis, both France and Cantona declined to discuss the rather unseemly events of the recent past. "We thought that we might need an interpreter but football is a common language," Francis said.

"Chris Woods is currently learning French and can converse a little with him. Also, Cantona has said that he has got his hands to speak for him."

Cantona is likely to don a Wednesday shirt for the first time tomorrow night when he is scheduled to make a brief appearance at the Sheffield Arena in a six-a-side challenge match against Balmore Blast, the North American Indoor League champions.

Eubank tries to soften image

BY SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

FOR the first time in his career of 29 contests, Chris Eubank shook the hand of an opponent yesterday. Eubank defends his World Boxing Organisation super-middleweight title against Thulane "Sugar Boy" Malinga, of South Africa, on Saturday and when called on to shake Malinga's hand for a photocall at Birmingham the champion duly obliged. "It's the first time that I can remember shaking my opponent's hand," Eubank said.

This departure was not due to any suffering in him — he has always maintained that in the ring he is uncompromising but outside it a good man — but primarily because of a lingering sadness about the state of health of Michael Watson, his last opponent.

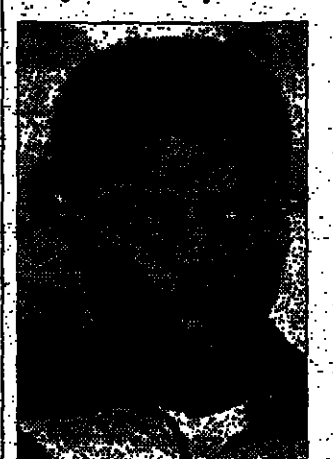
It was also to show respect to his opponent and softening the image "given to me by the press". "I call him Thulane. I don't like his name. Sugar Boy? — Boy, because of the system in South Africa. It would be all right if he lived here, but coming from a country like South Africa, I do not like the word 'boy'. I raise him as a good boxer. I have seen his fights and I picked him because he is an opponent no one can criticize."

Eubank went so far as to say that a return bout with Nigel Benn would not take place if Benn persisted with his aggressive attitude towards him. "If Benn makes a charge, then yes. But the type of frame of mind he has is heading for the Watson type of situation. With that frame of mind, it's not going to happen."

"Watson is not 25 per cent of what he was. The situation is shocking. I pray that he recovers. It's the business side I do not like. It's a blood business. People come to see one man draw blood from another. The business side is no good. I can lose my life in there and he [Malinga] can lose his life in there. That's why I've got to respect him."

Eubank said that once he returned to the gym, the memory of Watson was, for the moment, blanked out. "I'm from the streets. I know all about pressures. I have got to be ruthless. If you're going in there to fight you cannot go in half-cocked. That's the way I've been in sparring sessions. I don't want what happened to Michael Watson to happen to either of us. But I'm going out there to win, and do everything that I can to win the fight."

□ Evander Holyfield, the world heavyweight champion, is expected to meet Riddick Bowe in Las Vegas on May 9. If he gains clearance from a judge in New Jersey, on Thursday.



Malinga: earns respect

Kinnear facing a disrepute charge

JOE Kinnear, who took over as Wimbledon's manager last week, was yesterday charged with misconduct by the Football Association. Kinnear was reported after a reserve match earlier this month.

"He is alleged to have made comments to the referee and linesman and has 14 days to request a personal hearing," an FA spokesman said.

The Crystal Palace manager, Steve Coppell, charged with a similar offence after the game against Manchester City, has told the FA that he will not be appearing before a disciplinary tribunal. Howard Wilkinson, of Leeds United, has yet to respond after alleged comments to officials during the 6-1 win at Sheffield Wednesday.

The FA is also waiting to hear from Michael Thomas, of Liverpool, who faces action because of a newspaper arti-

cle in the wake of his move from Arsenal, and the Aston Villa goalkeeper, Les Sealey, who was yesterday charged with bringing the game into disrepute after his end-of-match outburst against match officials a week ago last Saturday.

Micky Hazard, of Swindon Town, could face an FA misconduct charge after police yesterday accused him of inciting the crowd in the weekend FA Cup fourth-round win at Cambridge United. A full report is being sent to the FA by the police. Another Swindon midfielder player, Fitzroy Simpson, has been given a two-match suspension for reaching 21 penalty points, and will miss games with Blackburn Rovers on Saturday and Bristol City next Tuesday.

African reflections, page 27



"Who will care for them — if anything happens to me?"

This is the nightmare of many lonely, elderly people.

It needn't be! The AWT runs an Emergency Pet Care Scheme to ensure that pets are looked after if anything happens to their owners.

The Animal Welfare Trust is also the national Charity which cares for hundreds of unwanted pets every year, until a new loving home can be found — however long it takes. No healthy animal is ever destroyed.

But this costs well over half a million pounds a year — and there are so many unwanted pets in need. Please help us today with your gift — and write for our free Guide to Making a Will.

The Animal Welfare Trust

Tyler's Way, Watford by Pass, Watford, Herts WD2 8HQ
Tel. 0181-9501215/177. Rec. Charity 26299

Please send your Free Gift Catalogue and tell me more about the Trust ☐

I enclose cheque/P.O. to 'Animal Welfare Trust' for £..... or Debit my Account/VISA Card ☐

Signature _____ Name _____

Address _____

One-day takeover limits Test appeal

BY ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN AUCKLAND

NEW Zealand's equivalent of the Lord's Test, their mid-summer cricketing showpiece, begins at Eden Park on Thursday, but the people of Auckland are not exactly clamouring for tickets. The impressively resplendent stadium can hold 40,000; local opinion yesterday was that the aggregate attendance over five days could be little more than half that number.

Crickets here is in financial crisis. The World Cup is expected to help, but may yet prove an expensive luxury. In the meantime, Test matches are increasingly being seen as the province of those with nothing better to occupy them until the next one-day game comes along.

The same thing has happened here, and it is spreading. No sooner had a few hours' play been lost on the first day in New Plymouth last Friday, than it was being put to the touring side, by

local officials, that they might prefer to play two one-day games, "to get a good crowd in". The idea, thankfully, was thrown out.

If cricket officials are thinking that way, it is small wonder that the public has lost its taste for the traditional form of the game. The first Test at Christchurch drew a pitiful five-day attendance of 11,768. Three days before it began, almost as many watched a provincial limited-overs final on the same ground.

Yesterday, the Auckland Cricket Association said it would regard a crowd of 8,000 on any day of this week's Test as a reason to be thankful. Five years ago, it conceded, double that number would have been expected on both weekend days.

Expense is not a persuasive

deterrent. Even in a depression, which is biting here as hard as it is in England, a daily ticket price of £5 to sit anywhere in the ground does not seem excessive.

Peter McDermott, the chairman of New Zealand Cricket, said: "We have to accept that there is a changing pattern in the way people watch cricket." In the wake of some ribald criticism, however, McDermott admits that changes may also be necessary in selling the game.

The brash, upbeat and Americanised image which is being promoted for the New Zealand team is dubious enough. When they are being outclassed, as they are by England, it is nothing short of preposterous.

Even the New Zealand coach, Warren Lees, agrees up to a point. "One or two

younger players, who were impressive, have been told they were great players and began to believe it. They are the sort who might be slightly affected by the Young Guns thing."

The bottom line, of course, is that the money spent on marketing has simply not worked. People are not flocking to the games. They want a winning team; and they want an end to the internal discord to which is generally being credited the unavailability of Jeffrey Crowe, and the non-selection in the first Test of the popular Ken Rutherford.

Whether or not they still want Test cricket at all, however, is worryingly open to doubt. The answer will be clearer this time next week.

Australia in control, page 27
Malandra out, page 27

Bids for Games boost Commonwealth cause

BY JOHN GOODBODY

THE Commonwealth Games are among the most entrancing of sporting events. Known as the Friendly Games, they have also produced some memorable competitive moments. But the growth of grand prix meetings and world and continental championships has meant that the Games are struggling to maintain their attraction.

The 1994 Games are to be held in Victoria, British Columbia, but what has most cheered David Dixon, the

secretary of the Games Federation, is that the two bids for 1998 are further advanced in their preparations than the Canadian hosts are for two years' time.

Kuala Lumpur and Adelaide submitted official applications to host the Games before the deadline last Saturday. Sheffield had been planning to bid, until the British International Sports Committee refused to support the candidature, largely because of the financial disaster of the World Student Games last year.

"Both Kuala Lumpur and

Adelaide are two of the strongest bids we have had in recent years," Dixon said yesterday. "Victoria has had a lot to do, but the Canadian government received a formal report on the progress of the facilities and that was extremely encouraging."

With the television rights already concluded with Australia and Britain — the BBC is again covering the event — the one problem is whether Britain's leading athletes can be persuaded to travel to Victoria the week after they have participated in the European championships.

More heartening is the establishment from next weekend of a permanent Games secretariat in London, in accommodation provided free by the Sports Council, a welcome instance of Britain trying to recover some of its lost influence in international sports politics.

The heads of state publicly supported the games at the Commonwealth conference in Harare last year. This is scarcely surprising, given the fact that the Games are the one genuine manifestation of the Commonwealth. What is needed now is financial

support from Commonwealth countries to provide the federation offices with a professional staff for administration, fund-raising, and for television and sponsorship negotiations.

Given the small amount of money involved, this should not be beyond the bounds of possibility. The federation will also directly benefit from fixed royalties from a coin programme marketed by the Royal Australian Mint.

Three other main issues concern the future of the Games. There is the possibility of South Africa rejoining

to the Commonwealth; the chances of countries outside Britain, Australia, Canada and New Zealand staging the Games; and the addition of team sports to the programme. Netball will be included in 1998; basketball or volleyball could also be approved.

The Commonwealth Games have an exciting future, provided a few wealthy governments translate their verbal support into a small cash commitment.



PARENTS
When nanny took a trip it was a perk of the job



LAW
Spotlight on Barbara Mills, the City fraud fighter

LIFE & TIMES

TUESDAY JANUARY 28 1992

Eubank tries to soften image

Canary's towering triumph

Critics may call it an eyesore but to Marcus Binney it is an astonishingly impressive architectural achievement

As developments go, Canary Wharf is in the Amazon-class. Not beautiful, but impressive, even astonishing. Already, only months after it was topped out, the tower and its setting are attracting tourists in numbers unprecedented for a commercial development, especially one tucked away in the derelict former dockyards of London's East End.

What impresses first of all is its sheer scale: the 59-storey tower is visible from 20 miles away, an instantly recognisable landmark. Approached in the early evening, when the office lights are blazing, Canary Wharf has something of the drama of Manhattan seen from Brooklyn, a vast cliff of building rising sheer above everything around.

But look at a map and the area the new citadel occupies seems almost desolate, a single wharf between two docks. True, Olympia & York, the developers, have almost doubled the land area by building coffer dams out into the water, but the total length of the wharf is in fact significantly less than the length of the Mall.

So much of Docklands has an unfinished look, with showy buildings surrounded by streets no one could feel comfortable walking along. Canary Wharf, by contrast, springs upon the world, like the goddess Athene from the head of Zeus, mature and fully armed. The trees are 25 or 30 years old, the fountains play, the arcades are rapidly filling up with shops.

"The aim was to provide a sense of completion from day one," says Clifton Page, design co-ordinator of the public spaces. The key is the masterplan drawn up by Skidmore, Owings and Merrill (SOM), the American architects. Their guidelines imposed a different aesthetic, in some ways harking back to an earlier age.

For the past 20 years or more the trend has been towards high-rise buildings that rise sheer from the pavement, eliminating podiums and abolishing any distinction between ground floor shops and the buildings above. At Canary Wharf all the buildings have a distinctive treatment of the lower two storeys, aimed at creating an ambience as individual as the Rue de Rivoli.

"Each of these buildings is enormous," says Adrian Smith of SOM, who designed No 10 Cabot Square, the second largest building after the tower. "In Chicago each would occupy a full city block, or at least half of one." While the NatWest Tower took nine years to build, Olympia & York had a three-year deadline if they were to harvest the tax benefits of the enterprise zone. This meant using fast-track building methods — employing cranes instead of scaffolding — and American architects. "Olympia & York felt they had to go with architects they had already worked with," Mr Page explains. "And, as they had never built anything outside North America, that meant American architects." The one exception is the British practice of Troughton McAslan which convinced them that it could deliver on time.

So what of the architectural quality? Cesar Pelli's tower has already been described by Martin Pawley in *Building* magazine as "perhaps the most awe-inspiring building to be built in Britain this century". Mr Pelli says he chose a square topped by a pyramid because these are forms familiar to every culture.

But, the tower lacks the soaring elegance, the sense of reaching for the sky, of the best skyscrapers. Mr Pelli imposes an absolute uniformity in the windows, even ingeniously concealing the fact that two storeys, designed as trading floors, are actually higher.

Curiously the most breathtaking part of the tower is the ground floor lobby. While most high-rise buildings have a solid core, Mr Pelli has designed the base of his tower so that one can look straight through the building and out the other side in any direction. As the lobby is nearly 30 feet tall the proportion of open space to mass is exhilarating.

The element that Olympia & York did not dictate — indeed left wide open — is style: there is no oppressive parade of almost identical buildings. Brick and stone deliberately revive London traditions.

The most unattractive building on the site must be that of Credit Suisse First Boston, designed by I.M. Pei's practice, now renamed Pei Cobb Freed & Partners. This is an outside Wagnerian Brünnhilde, bursting out of her corset in three directions. Yet even this hippopotamus is strangely impressive by virtue of its sheer size, and after a while the octagonal biscuit-tin shape begins to grow on one.

Next door is Mr Smith's 10 Cabot Square, which Mr Page



London's latest landmark: the "fantastic" 59 storeys of the tower seen from Cabot Square

says is most popular with visitors. Mr Smith has deliberately responded to the London context with panels of traditional stock bricks, and what appears to be Portland stone, although in fact it is cleverly handled pre-cast concrete made up with stone aggregate.

Inside, he has created a series of marble lobbies, connected by internal shopping arcades. Here he develops a language of classicism without columns, arches, or any rounded forms with piers, blocked capitals, straight lintels and rectangular lunettes above.

Upstairs, a still greater surprise awaits. Atriums are now commonplace but Mr Smith has bucked the trend for indoor gardens and, instead, created a giant classical hall. What is inspired is the way he has adapted a single classical

Order to a space rising nine storeys. Their lower half is like a great baroque saloon with a groin vault; looking up into a second upper hall one sees a back-lit dome floating high above.

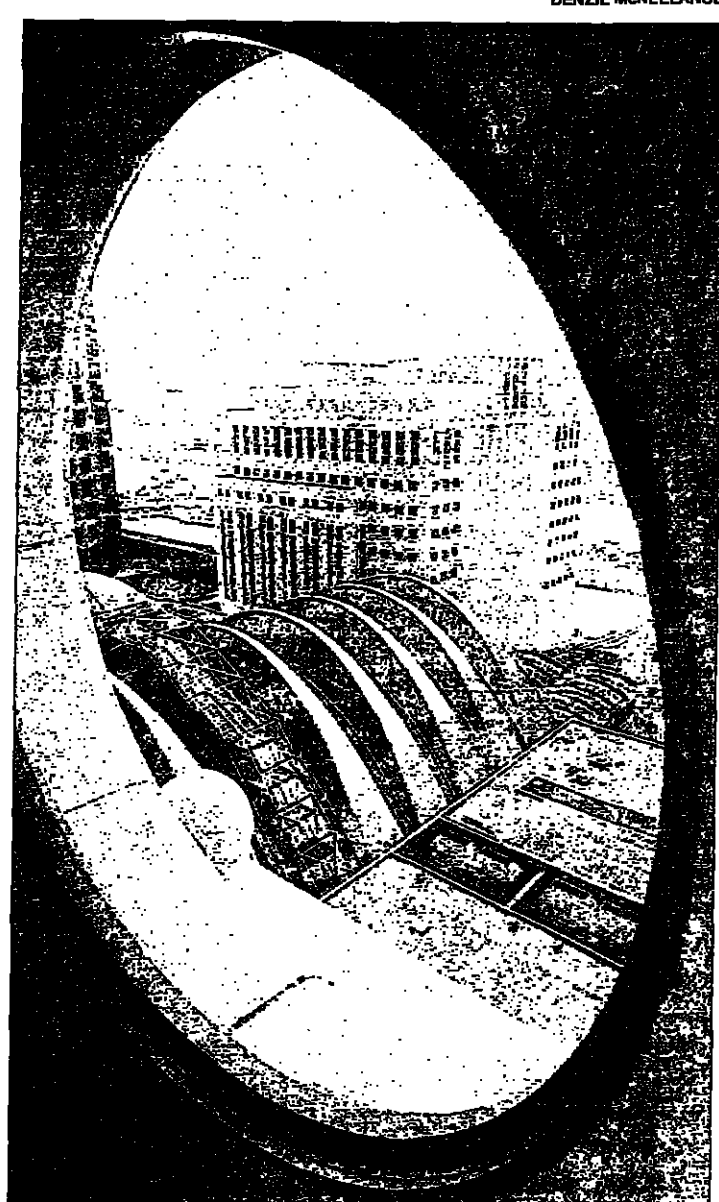
Smith's neighbour at 25, The North Colonnade is a striking contrast, all sleek curtain walling of glass and polished Canadian granite. John McAslan, the architect, explains: "We are a Modernist practice. I wanted to show there were other precedents for mid-rise buildings than turn-of-the-century Chicago."

Budgets, he says, prevented the kind of high-tech fireworks to be found in Sir Richard Rogers's Lloyd's building, or Norman Foster's Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank design. So he went for a "tight skin", with floor-to-ceiling glazing. One distinctive feature is

the use of rounded corners. While all-out reflective glass was kept out of Canary Wharf, Mr McAslan's polished facades provide a fascinating dappled reflection of the buildings around.

On the south side of the Wharf the most striking buildings are Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates' 20, Cabot Square and 10, The South Colonnade. These are designed as a pair, like a gleaming white sugar cube sliced through by the Docklands Light Railway. On the south they have a sweeping curved facade almost as pronounced as the Unilever building, next to London's Blackfriars Bridge.

Inside 20, Cabot Square, the richly veined white marble floor is cut in such a way that the veins run continuously across the floor in a mesmerising diagonal pattern.



Platform soul: the roof of the Docklands Light Railway station

like rain driven down a railway carriage window.

By contrast, the soft grey of the marble walls is so perfectly even that you feel you are standing in a Magritte painting, uncertain as to where the true boundaries are. It works so well because the lighting has been balanced with infinite patience.

No 20, Cabot Square, to be occupied by American Express, also has a superb atrium, almost a perfect cube, with square windows echoing the square plans, and a perfect square of 16 fig trees in the centre. Long strands of trailing "ivy", made of silk, cleverly soften the slightly stark walls.

The shops and public spaces in the centre of Canary Wharf were designed by Mr Pelli. They are airy, spacious and seem at present just a little too polished ever to hum with life. But 50,000 workers must surely put a change to that.

Mr Pelli's final flourish is the roof of the railway station, a not so miniature version of the arched glassed roofs of the great London termini. The drama comes from the billowing ridges and furrows, although it would have been a far

more impressive space if the roof had been carried the full length of the platforms. But as Norman Foster is designing the new station for the Jubilee line underground stop at Canary Wharf a further treat is probably in store.

Is Canary Wharf a slice of Manhattan in London? Standing in the cold, admiring the lights of a thousand windows, I was reminded instead of Manchester. These are the heirs to the great cliffs of early 19th-century cotton mills: huge open floor plans, rows of identical windows, buildings that impress by sheer size, number and proximity.

Like Canary Wharf the mills were a fantastic sight at night, with every window lit up. They made a show in a very similar way, with great corner towers, gables and eye-catching entrances.

What Olympia & York has brought to Docklands is a 20th-century version of Blake's satanic mills, swathed in marble and surrounded by trees and fountains. I salute them.

TOMORROW
A year in the life of the Queen

When nine-year-olds call you Mister

There's nothing wrong with your sight, the optician said, "it's just that your eyes are 40 and they need a little support." That was two prescriptions ago. The lenses now in my glasses are not so much a light frame, more of an ocular Zimmer frame.

A few years ago, it was the classified ads in *Exchange & Mart* which merged in my mindless confusion before my unglazed eyes. Now it is the television — not the image on the screen, but the instrument in the corner of the room which appears to have bonded with a window. My nine-year-old son squints through my glasses, saying: "How can you see through these?" The other possibility hasn't struck him yet.

By such marks shall ye know yourself, infallibly, to be middle-aged. No argument, no fooling. Another deadly mark in the socket is the appearance of bags over the eyes. I had always carried around a pair of little sports hold-alls under my eyes — and cared for them as if they were marked with a fashionable trade name, my Gnocis.

When I was 17 and staying up all night to read Balzac or Gide, I used to shade in some darkness under my eyes with cigarette ash, before I went to school. There was

a certain manly distinction, a hint of the businessman's valise, in a little eyeshadow. Now I can see myself — dimly and wishfully — ending up like Auden, in lines of flesh if not of print, with peepers like a lizard's barely visible beneath folds of skin.

Eyes, memory, hearing, hair — all thinning, weakening, waning. My child gave me a hearing aid for my last birthday. It was a big yellow badge with the message, in inch-high letters: "Please shout". He says he will learn sign language to communicate with me.

The progress of the years is not all reductive. Waist thickens; thighs expand; hair which departs the scalp flourishes everywhere else — lianas, coils and ropes of greasy, black stuff or desiccated grey come weaving over shoulders, on toes, in ears, like weeds in November. Pull one out and three grow in its place.

What do you do? Report to the fat farm and the depilatory wax-works? Pump that protein on the Nautilus for four hours every day, like Ali McGraw waiting for a script — any script? Leave it out.

Some distinctive advantages flow from these incontestable signs of decay. There is no doubt in my mind or in anybody else's

MIDLIFE
Neil Lyndon broods on signs of approaching decay



that I am now middle-aged, by eliminating choice or the realisation of fantasy, the certain fact reduces confusion.

I am happy to find that I no longer see myself opening the bowling for England against Australia at Lord's, nor striking a hat-trick in the World Cup final. Those exhausting fancies do not waste my days nor even vex my dreams. They have dematerialised.

Similarly, walking on city streets is much more restful now that I no longer wonder whether I might have a chance with every good-looking woman who walks my way. I have no chance. They don't see me. They don't need glasses: I'm not there.

A great change has come over me, which appears to find its correspondence in the outer world. Some 20 years of uncertainty seem to be settling into a shape which, even if it is not lissom or comely, is, at least, definite.

Seventeen years ago, when I was 29, I was playing chess with my nine-year-old nephew and he could not fathom my style of play. (It was unusual: I liked to pretend that I was Hitler in the bunker directing the Reich's fleet — Tirpitz and Bismarck as royals, Graf Spee as a bishop, Scharnhorst and Gneisenau as knights, aircraft-carriers as castles, U-boats as pawns and the Führer screaming: "Doenitz, you have lost my Tirpitz: you are sacked!")

When I returned to the board after goose-stepping round the room with my finger under my nose to celebrate a scintillating check, he asked me: "Are you a proper man or are you a big boy?" I could see his confusion. At that

age, I was much the same as I had been 15 years before — same height, same weight, same clothes, same tastes in music, sports and girls. That boy and I were a cigarette-paper away from each other in mind.

Nine-year-olds do not ask me that question today. They call me "Mr Lyndon" and are inclined to run after me in the street with the stamps and papers I have absent-mindedly left on the counter of the village shop. If I am not what they would call a proper man, they do not know one.

Just this evening, my son and I glimpsed Cliff Richard on the television, and the kid said: "He's a bit old to be a rocker, isn't he?"

I nodded a look of hurt. He said: "You're not a rocker, you dinkie!" An hour later, I told him that I was going on a motorcycle riding course this coming weekend. "I don't know what's wrong with you," he sighed. "Don't you know that motorbikes are dangerous? Sometimes you act like a kid."

Perhaps I should cancel the course: I don't want anyone taking me for a kid any more.

TOMORROW
Lynne Truss on the single life

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The hits keep on coming back

RADIO

Clive Davis looks at the way commercial radio is mining the gold in the oldies rather than playing today's bestsellers

Nostalgia, said Sam Goldwyn, isn't what it used to be. Tell that to the radio executives who run the golden oldies stations. "Gold" programming — the playing of classic pop hits around the clock — has been one of the surprise developments of recent years. Originally conceived as a convenient and simple way of filling space on commercial AM (the old "Medium Wave") frequencies, Gold has tapped an audience which clearly feels out of step with the dance and "rave" music which is dominating the current Top 40 charts.

The latest audience research figures — covering the period October to December 1991 — from Jicar, the industry's own ratings body, show that oldies are continuing to attract listeners from rival stations. In Manchester, for example, the Gold frequency run by Piccadilly Radio has now actually nudged ahead of the station's FM (formerly "VHF") network in the audience ratings.

Curiously, the boom happened almost by accident. The seeds were sown in the Eighties, when the government indicated that it wanted an end to simultaneous broadcasting on FM and AM frequencies, the implication being that AM slots that were not being exploited to the full might be handed over to other operators.

Faced with tight profit margins, companies saw Gold as an easy option. "It was a case of use it or lose it," says Bob Tyler, a radio specialist with RPM magazine. "Commercial radio is notoriously hard-up, so if a station had a roomful of old records, Gold seemed like a good solution. It has worked very well with the 35-55 year-olds. People do like familiar music — as you get older you do tend to block off MC Hammer and the latest dance craze."

Capital Gold, the first 24-hour oldies station, went on the air in London in November 1988. Its breakfast show is currently hosted by Tony Blackburn, followed by David Hamilton, Paul Burnett and Mike Read. Not for nothing is it often described as a retirement home for ageing disc jockeys. The average listener tunes in for 10.1 hours each week, compared with 10.4 hours for Capital FM.

A spokesman admits that the

company was surprised at the speed at which the venture accumulated a following. One significant source appears to be disaffected Radio 2 fans, upset at the much-publicised changes to the schedules and the movement of popular presenters such as Ken Bruce. The BBC network has also lost listeners through its own move to FM-only broadcasting.

As the cynics point out, many middle-aged people — the kind, presumably, who are expected to read *The Oldie* — are baffled by talk of megaHerz. They do not care for using the aerial on the kitchen radio. Instead, a large number have moved the needle along the dial and found a Gold station that plays Abba and the Searchers.

But is Gold a healthy phenomenon, or has it led to increasingly homogenised and unadventurous radio? It partly depends on how imaginatively the programmers select the music. Some stations are notorious for churning out old chart material with no regard for merit. Others, such as Capital Gold and Radio Clyde, have won praise for showing some discrimination. The definition of Gold also appears to vary: programmers at Piccadilly Gold, for example, reject the idea that it has to mean non-stop Gerry and the Pacemakers.

"We do play the Sixties hits, but we aim at more of a sound which is adult and contemporary," says Keith Pringle, Piccadilly's deputy programme director. "We don't sell oldies as old-time radio. A format based purely on nostalgia is dead. Nobody likes to think their best days are behind them."

"There has always been a barrier between the radio generations, but before it tended to be between the young and those who grew up in the era before pop music. Now you find that the division begins at about 25," Pringle continues. "Rave is a very sectional market. Kids tend to grow out of it after they reach 21, and frankly a lot of it is not good radio."

Meanwhile, as technology progresses, Gold is becoming a transnational commodity, relayed by satellite across Europe. Supergold, which was set up by Chiltern Radio 18 months ago, offers a "neutral programme service" beamed from the Astra satellite



The Rolling Stones in the mid-Sixties, an era that produced much of the music now the staple diet of the "Gold" radio stations

and available to radio stations looking for a low-cost music format. Each hour of oldies contains a total of around nine minutes of "windows" in which local stations can insert their own jingles and advertisements. The service's subscribers include Invicta in Kent, as well as stations in Ireland and Hungary. Talks are also underway with a British super-market chain.

There is a chance, too, that Gold will gain a national foothold next week, when on February 4 the Radio Authority auctions off the new national AM frequency. Rumours abound that Capital Radio will decide to put its ample resources into a bid for an oldies network. Within the industry, there is concern that if Capital Gold were to go national, it would

devastate the existing local competition, pushing many of the stations closer to insolvency.

Most bids are likely to be placed at the very last minute. As yet the only application to have been made public has been from Eclipse, a consortium which proposes an "experimental and soft-rock" station. Given their numbers — and disposable income — rock fans between the ages of 25 and 45 are not well catered for under the present structure. Spencer Pryor, Eclipse's spokesman, jokes that his station would play "anything with a guitar in it". His ideal playlist would include The Grateful Dead, Styx, The Cult, Velvet Underground, Van Morrison and John Lee Hooker.

The bid grew out of a two-month experimental audio transmission relayed from the Astra satellite last year. When the service was taken off, Eclipse received 2,000 letters and faxes from distressed dish-owners. Whether the consortium can muster the finances to compete at the auction is another matter, however. One other problem would be that AM is a relatively poor medium for high-quality music, especially in the evenings.

Yet even at Radio 1 there is agreement that "serious" rock is undersold at the moment. Paul Robinson, editor of mainstream programmes on the network, believes Radio 1 "does what it can" in terms of rock coverage, within the constraints of the Top 40 playlist.

Robinson, incidentally, used to be programme director at Supergold. As a poacher turned public service administrator, he argues that the oldies format has a limited life span. "Radio 1 offers diversity of music. It champions new artists. Gold may be popular, but it doesn't add anything to British music. The stations that play it are exploiting the catalogue but they're not putting anything back."

"The evidence from the United States shows that Gold stations die off after about five years. There is only a limited pool of records which can be played in order to attract the maximum audience, and eventually listeners feel burnt out. I don't know how they're going to keep it fresh. I expect it to decline in 1993 and 1994."

COMMENT

Richard Morrison

Lost leaders

Nothing exemplifies the bruising competitiveness of British orchestral life better than the phenomenon of "poached" leaders, which is turning like a fever at present. The leader of an orchestra is not the conductor, but somebody far more integral to the orchestra's health: the principal violinist, who is responsible for organising how the strings bow the notes, who acts as intermediary between orchestra and conductor, who plays all the fiddle solos, and who auditions new string players and decides — the toughest task of all — how near the front they sit.

A good leader can pull an orchestra through a performance under a terrible conductor. Indeed, the art of conducting is a mere offshoot of the art of leading: the first orchestras were nearly always directed by the principal violinist. That explains why, outside Britain, the job is known as "concertmaster".

So the leader is a crucial figure. But this does not entirely explain the current mad scramble to woo the best of them: a process more reminiscent of the football transfer market than of the classical music business. Consider the following list. The Philharmonia has just appointed two new leaders: James Clark, poached from the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, and David Nolan, poached (even more thrillingly, for the Philharmonia) from the rival London Philharmonic. Since the LPO has also lost another key violinist to become co-leader of the BBC Symphony, it is looking a little depleted at the front. A self-inflicted wound did not help the LPO had chosen a fine new leader, but he quickly fell out with the orchestra's young maestro, Franz Welser-Möst, and left.

The Royal Philharmonic, unsettled since its long-standing leader was plucked by English National Opera, has now appointed the Russian, Zino Vinnikov (from the Leningrad Philharmonic) and the American, Jonathan Carney. But the London Symphony Orchestra is still searching for another leader: its most famous in recent history, Mike Davis, left for the Hallé in Manchester, but was then poached by the BBC Symphony.

Is all this chopping and shopping doing our orchestras any good? The world's greatest orchestras are usually distinguished by a remarkable consistency of personnel. The scramble for leaders seems, by contrast, to symbolise British orchestral life: breathless and unpredictable, but impatient of any process or person that does not produce fast results. In this, however, orchestras only mirror the society that supports them.

ARTS BRIEF

Richer still

ONE of the richest arts prize schemes, the Prudential Arts Awards, is increasing its value this year by 30 per cent. As well as giving £25,000 to each of the five category winners — music, visual arts, dance, theatre and opera — with a further £75,000 going to the eventual outright winner, another £5,000 will be given to each of 12 short-listed companies who are judged worthy even though they do not make it to the final assessment. The awards scheme has also been broadened this year, allowing festivals to enter for the first time.

Lost images

MORE than 2,500 films — many of them unique copies, dating back 50 years — are believed to have been lost when the building housing the Argentinean Film Archives recently collapsed. Thousands of still photographs were also destroyed. Guillermo Fernandez Jurado, the archive's curator, says he had repeatedly asked for official subsidy to strengthen the 100-year-old building. The eventual collapse was apparently caused by unauthorised underground construction nearby.

Bells to ring

FANS of the Irish playwright Billy Roche will be delighted to hear that his recent London fringe success, *Belfry*, is poised for a comeback in

November, when it will re-open in the West End. The play, about the affair between a sacristan and a church helper, received excellent reviews at its London premiere. *Belfry* will be presented in the West End with the author's two other Wexford-based plays: *A Handful of Stars* and *Poor Beast in the Rain*. Directed by Robin Lefevre, the trilogy is expected to travel on to Dublin's Abbey Theatre and then to New York, off-Broadway.

Bruce deuce

BRUCE Springsteen is to release two new albums simultaneously in the early spring and will probably tour Britain later this year. Neither album features the E Street Band, Springsteen's long-time, albeit occasional, collaborators. *Human Touch*, his tenth album, was recorded at various studios in Los Angeles and features vocal contributions from Bobby Hatfield (of The Righteous Brothers) and Sam Moore (of Sam and Dave). *Lucky Town*, at Springsteen's home studio. The songs — 24 altogether — are all new Springsteen compositions. Springsteen's last album, *Tunnel of Love*, was released in 1987.

Last chance...

TO REDUCE a play with 34 characters, not counting extras, to a two-hander takes skill and chutzpah, qualities Bruce Myers certainly possesses, though not necessarily in that order. His *Dybbuk for Two People* may not generate the power of S. Ansky's Yiddish original, but there is no denying the fascination of the story of the lovelorn boy who sneaks up a posthumous squint inside the girl he refused while alive. The curtain falls for the last time at the Hampstead Theatre (071-722 9301) next Saturday.

TOMORROW IN LIFE AND TIMES
National treasure?
across Frances Barber
interviewed by
Matt Wolf

TELEVISION

Nigel Hawkes

Dances with myths

How noble was the noble savage? In the anniversary year of Columbus's landing in the New World, *Horizon* on BBC 2 last night asked a lot of awkward questions about the American Indian, so often portrayed as the noble warrior, the peaceful savage and — modern susceptibilities being what they are — the original ecologist.

Two clips about the Yanomama Indians from Amazonia summed up the thesis. In one they were described as violent, Hobbesian beings who killed their daughters at birth to avoid overpopulation; in the second, as examples of Rousseau's noble savage: innocent, gentle and in perfect harmony with their surroundings.

The lesson, as Rayna Green of the US National Museum of American History put it, is that indigenous peoples have had their history invented for them. They are prisoners of a European history that has idealised their past and disparaged their present. The fate of the American Indian has been to symbolise the Fall of Man, with European immigrants in the role of serpent.

David Malone's film put a few punctures in this well-inflated myth. Archaeological evidence has shown that while Indians may have known 100 uses for the bison, they were perfectly capable of driving a huge herd of them over a cliff and making use of one in 100 of the carcasses that piled up at the bottom. The bones that were left behind for archaeologists to pick over were no different from the take-away food containers that symbolise Western wastefulness.



Noble savage? A native American Indian in *Horizon*

lunch on legs. The Indians' ancestors, populating America from the north, extinguished them in a blitzkrieg that puts the later near-extinction of the bison into a different perspective.

And what of the Hopi, the Indian tribe in such eternal harmony with nature that they did not even have a word for time? True, they are good farmers, but their survival for 1,000 years has depended not on a sustainable ecology but on the discovery of coal. Now the Peabody Coal Company leases the Hopi mine, paying the tribe for the privilege of trawling out its coal.

Today's Indians may be beginning to fight their way clear of the myths that white men have laid so heavily upon

them. The use of fire to clear pastures and to control the spread of woodland, long banned on the reservations in the interests of conservation, is now coming back. "We have to find practical solutions, not retreat into myths about some magical past," explained Richard Sherman, director of the Sioux Rangers. *Horizon* did well to get in early in Columbus year with a film that helped to dispel some of the cant we are bound to be bombarded with. The message was simple: there never was a golden age, timeless harmony, or the noble savage. Men are much alike in every age and culture. You can take that as consolation or dispiriting, depending on your point of view.

Television listings, page 16

ARTS 2000

Final call for 1994

The venue for the Year of Drama, 1994, is announced today. Simon Tait reports on fierce competition to win the honour

Today, Richard Eyre, artistic director of the National Theatre, will announce the Arts Council's centre of drama for 1994. The winner, which will be either Greater Manchester or Sussex, will present a 12-month programme of theatrical excellence as part of "Arts 2000", the project by Arts Council chairman Lord Palumbo to celebrate the best of the arts in Britain.

Each of the last nine years of this century is dedicated to an art form. This year is music, centred on Birmingham; next year it will be dance, in the East Midlands. Also today, the locale to celebrate literature in 1995 and the visual arts in 1996 will be announced: Penelope Lively will say if the Year of Literature will be in Kirkcaldy, Swalesha or Nottinghamshire, and Nicholas Serota, director of the Tate Gallery, will reveal the visual arts winner from contesting Bradford, Glasgow, Hampshire and the region covered by the Northern Arts Board. But the so-called Year of Drama will probably be the farthest reaching in its long-term effects. The winner gets £250,000 to mount a programme, but the accolade is worth much more than the money: the Sussex proposals would cost £14 million, Manchester's £10 million, and both will need the title to attract the additional money from sponsors.

Britain is dotted with theatres which are either disused or have been converted for bingo, cinema and other diversions. Sussex has its share, and as guest houses have given way to retirement homes a renown for theatre has been diluted in the last 30 years, when activity has become centred on Chichester, Brighton and Worthing. On the other hand, Greater Manchester's theatres and reputation are in full flow. Its bid concentrates on the other crisis in British theatre, the

dearth of new writing and the search for new audiences.

Sussex promises to bring a range of splendid old houses back to theatre, along with an unaccustomed cohesion between 16 local authorities, including the two counties of East and West Sussex.

Brighton's Essoldo, now an anonymous bingo hall, could be a 2,000-seat theatre again for £2 million, and for £250,000 the Continental Theatre, currently a disused

warehouse, could be made into a performance venue.

Eastbourne's Devonshire Park Theatre, reconstructed by Frank Matcham 90 years ago, could be refurbished. Hastings has its pier theatre and Bexhill its De La Warr Pavilion, and Worthing has its Ritz Ballroom, which could be converted, complementing the Connaught next door. The impetus could mean the saving of Brighton's West Pier, for which £30 million is needed to turn it into a performing arts centre.

"What are ambitious proposals will be made much easier by the accolade," says Paul Byrne, head of Brighton's corporate analysis and development unit and part of the executive team for the bid. "All 16 councils have worked together and contributed to the £30,000 the bid has cost. We need the impetus of the Year of Drama to keep every-

one concentrated."

Manchester's ten local authorities are used to working together in the old metropolitan county. Each has contributed to the £100,000 cost of the bid, whose publicity co-ordinator is Gregor Stewart. "We have to attract new audiences with new work, and that will be the legacy," he says. If the city wins there will be new dramatic work about the Manchester Ship Canal (whose bicentenary is in 1994), the new tram system and football.

Manchester has a long-standing theatrical reputation — it was here that repertory began a century ago, and Joan Littlewood started the Theatre Workshop in the 1940s. The Royal Exchange Theatre is in partnership with Mobil for the biennial New Writers competition with an undertaking to produce the winners' work.

Making the bid will be expensive — whether or not they win — Edinburgh, Hertfordshire, Tayside, Milton Keynes and Banff and Buchan have already had their bids rejected — but for neither bidder will it be money down the drain if they do not win. Each will have a drama scheme, some of which will become reality: about 60 per cent of Manchester's is already scheduled.

Gavin Henderson, director of the Brighton Festival and a member of the Sussex bid steering committee, says the project has enabled him to think of schemes such as a biennial drama festival alternating with the London International Festival of Theatre, the development of artistic links between theatres across Sussex, and working up connections with other festivals as well as devising a comedy circuit.

"What has done is create great excitement across long-standing boundaries," he says, "and a wish to make things happen."

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The reason was that he had insured himself against redundancy 13 months earlier. Instead of finding himself on the dole, he was paid "a very healthy £2,700 a month — enough to cover my outgoings".

Mr Cazenove's story is recounted in the third episode of the BBC's new series on redundancy. He took out the insurance in January 1989 "on a whim". In those days, General Accident was happy to accept his £200-a-month premium. Soon it became impossible to take out such insurance.

The transaction enabled him to pay the mortgage on his three-bedroomed house in southwest London and bought him the time to decide what to do next. "I'm afraid that when you're in the fast lane, you don't save very much," he says.

A member of the Cazenove banking family (his cousin, Bernard, is still a partner in the firm), Mr Cazenove, 29, had been bond-broking for about five years when he was made redundant. "I was a classic yuppie," he says. "I worked with a hell of a lot of Eastenders, barrow-boys made good, white socks and all."

Supported by his insurance, he took courses in accountancy, book-keeping and French, thought about having a restaurant, looked at other jobs, such as financial public relations, and last summer tried to get back into bond-broking. "But I'd been out far too long and all my clients had gone."

Instead, he spent six weeks in Iraq helping to organise aid to the Kurds after the Gulf War. "That was a brilliant idea," he says. "I was getting rather stale in London, and one has to look at different things. Going to Iraq got a lot out of my system."

Back in London, he found that he needed a new morning suit for his sister's wedding. Horrified at the price, he decided to start an upmarket secondhand shop specialising in morning suits, dinner jackets and tweeds.

His shop, Bertie Wooster, opened in Fulham, southwest London, in November. He stopped claiming his insurance money, which was valid for two years, shortly before opening the shop and now pays himself a salary of £30 a week. He found the business easy to pick up. "It's amazing what you can do if you really try," he says.

He misses some things such as his BMW, which he traded in for a 14-year-old Ford Sierra. Working in the City, he once spent £1,900 on an evening out for four, which included the theatre, dinner and the hire of limousine. Now he expects to spend about £45 on dinner for himself and a girlfriend — "something cheap and cheerful like a pizza".

Looking back on the whole experience, he says: "It was a hell of a shock to the system, but I'm a much more mellow person than I was before. I was just a spoilt brat in many ways, but I've matured immensely."

SALLY BROMPTON



Facing an uncertain future: brothers-in-law Malcolm Jones (left) and Geoff Sanger lost their jobs along with 100 of their relatives. The two men are now setting up a consultancy/recruitment agency

A family made redundant

Last week Thelma Sanger left her three-bedroomed, newly mortgaged council house in the tiny hillside village of Brymbo in North Wales and flew out to Libya to visit her husband, Phil.

She took with her his Christmas presents, including videotapes of his favourite television programme, *Dad's Army*. When Mr Sanger left Brymbo three months ago, it was the first time that he and his wife had been separated since their schooldays.

Mrs Sanger, a slight, shy 40-year-old woman who works in the meat department of the local Tesco, admits that she had no idea how much she would miss her 39-year-old husband when she agreed that he should accept a six-month contract

in Libya, worth nearly four times the amount he could earn at home — if he were able to get a job.

Her family has been astonished that she has been able to cope on her own. "They were like two peas in a pod," says Mr Sanger's eldest brother, Geoff. "Wherever Phil went, Thelma went, too."

The Sangers' enforced separation is the result of the closure of the Brymbo steelworks, which left 1,130 workers unemployed. Phil Sanger, and his brother John, both production workers, were lucky to get short-term jobs in Libya, teaching steel-making. Most of their former colleagues are less fortunate, and the Sanger brothers still have the problem of what they will do when they return.

With a population of

When Brymbo steelworks closed, 1,130 people lost their jobs. Sally Brompton on the death of a village

3,400, there is not a family in Brymbo that has not been affected. Geoff Sanger has counted at least 100 relatives who were made redundant, including his wife, Gaynor, his three brothers, two nephews, Gaynor's brother and three sisters and their husbands, four sons and three sons-in-law, and about 40 cousins and second cousins.

His own family has worked in the steelworks for four generations and he still misses the hum of the steel-cutting saw in the background. As his wife puts it: "It's as if the heartbeat of the village has gone."

The economic disaster that

is devastating this community on the outskirts of Wrexham is one of several explored in a four-part BBC television series about redundancy which begins this week.

The Sangers are luckier than most. They have paid off the mortgage and their only daughter is grown up and working. But many of the Brymbo families have large mortgages and small children, and all are accustomed to a good standard of living. Men in their early 40s are coming to terms with the fact that they may never work again.

Sixteen months after Uni-

nited Engineering Steels announced the closure of its 200-year-old plant, the effects are beginning to show on the sprawling village.

"This is a community caught in a time warp and, for the first time in their lives, they are having to go out into this alien world and make decisions they've never had to make before," says Sue Bourne, the producer of the television documentary.

Much of the bitterness among the redundant steelworkers is due to the fact that the Brymbo plant had a fine international reputation for producing high-quality specialised steel, and made a profit of £5 million in its final year. According to United Engineering Steels, the closure was forced by an overall fall in orders.

At lunchtime in the village the change of shift at the steel works used to bring men out on to the streets and into the pubs. Today, however, the streets are deserted and the only customer in the Miners Arms is a youth in jeans nursing his pint of bitter at the end of the bar.

Geoff Sanger can remember noisy lunchtimes in the pub when a thirsty steelman could down half-a-dozen pints of bitter in 30 minutes, easy. These days, Pat Horstman, the pubman, is doing well if he pulls half-a-dozen pints in a lunchtime session; and the steelworks snaking across the top of the hillside is as dead as the "Sunke It Rich" fruit machine

that blinks silently in the corner of the pub. At its peak, the Miners sold 1,000 barrels of beer a year. Now it is down to 150.

Mr Horstman no longer needs to make his weekly trip down to the post office to top up his bill with small change. "That's all that people are giving me these days," he says. With families being forced to split up to find work, the community spirit appears to be crumbling.

So far, the redundant employees — about 100 of them women — have been cushioned with a 12-month voluntary training scheme and a "top-up" deal based on their previous year's salary.

But unemployment is already rife in this corner of Clywd and now the men and women, newly qualified, are finding themselves joining the depressingly long queue with little prospect of finding work at the end of it. Most of the workers have nothing left to show for the initial official encouragement they received but a fruitless City & Guilds diploma and fast-dwindling redundancy payments.

Six hundred of them retrained, opting mainly for courses as heavy goods drivers, carpenters, painters and decorators, plasterers, bricklayers, plumbers and computer operators. But few have been able to put their new skills to economic use.

Geoff Sanger, who was earning £22,000 pounds a year, has qualified as a bailiff, bought two new suits and started his own legal services

business, serving injunctions for local solicitors for £12.50 an hour, plus 31p per cent a mile, with a bit of tracing and surveillance work thrown in. "It's very difficult to sell yourself to solicitors after 31 years in the steel industry," he says. He is also in the process of setting up a consultancy/recruitment agency with his brother-in-law, Malcolm Jones, 53, a former steel production supervisor who has retrained as a driving instructor.

Many of the former steelworkers are still determined not to accept less money than they were earning before.

Initially, that was the attitude of Alan Wynne, 48, a steelworker for 25 years. "I've had good money all my life, and the cost of living keeps going up. Why should I live below that standard?" he asks.

Having retrained as a painter and decorator, Mr Wynne signed on the dole at the end of November for the first time in his life. Accustomed to a salary of £300 to £600 a week, depending on overtime, he has been forced to drop his sights to £175 a week and fears he is still demanding too much.

"My age is against me," he says. "There was a night job going cleaning machinery on the industrial estate for £24 a night... well, I suppose it's money — but is it money, like?"

Redundant on BBC2 begins on Thursday at 8pm. The steelworkers of Brymbo feature in Every House In My Street on February 20. George Cazenove's story is told in A Little Decline and Fall on February 13.

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A hundred shades of green

A new exhibition looks behind the psychology of the eco-message

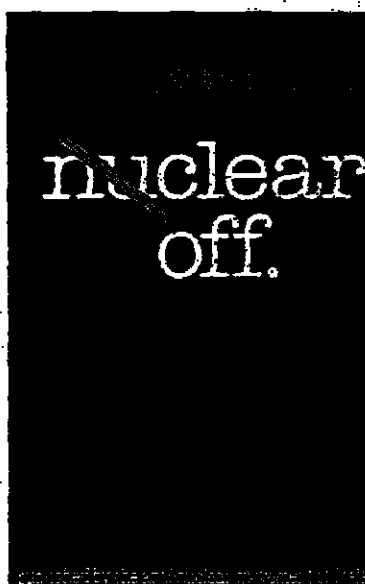
Green graphics have their groundrules: never mention disease on a campaigning T-shirt, keep politics off commercial organisations' posters, match the mood of the moment: too depressing a message is a turn-off.

An opportunity to study the psychology of green graphics is offered by an exhibition of posters, leaflets and packaging at the Victoria & Albert Museum, west London, next week. Humour, wit, shock tactics, appeals to conscience, straightforward information, teasing imagery and sheer beauty all have their place in the art of persuasion.

"We are not trying to show the history of the green movement, but rather how designers respond in getting the message across," explains Margaret Timmers, the museum's deputy curator of prints, drawings and paintings.

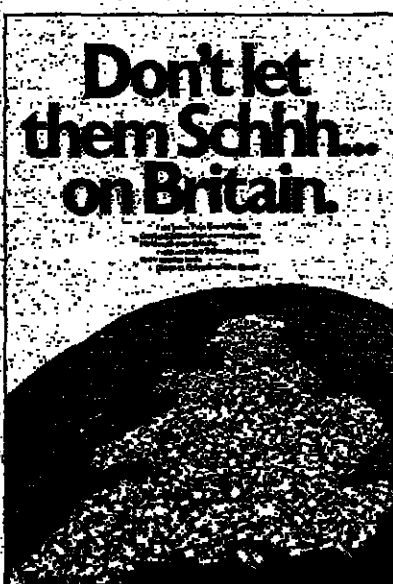
The exhibition spans almost a century, from the reprint of a bird protection poster dated 1898 to last year's posters from commercial organisations and environmental lobbies. A small section is devoted to the "green" technologies which underscore the graphic messages — the improved quality and greater range of recycled papers and some alternatives to petroleum-based inks.

An early exhibit, a 1936 Smokey Abatement poster, is illustrated with a tree and a globe — images that are now a familiar shorthand for green causes. A Graham Sutherland poster for London Transport dated 1933, lyrically "Opens a window on London's Country". By the 1970s the idealised pictorial countryside had given way to Harry Stevens's hip



Shock tactics: nuclear and non-returnable bottle posters aim to hit hard

graphics... humorously encouraging country walks with a big foot doodle. The guilt factor is strongly played up in second world war posters, illustrated by H.M. Bateman, Abram Games and others, exhorting the public to "Grow Your Own Food", "Save Fuel" and "Eat Greens Daily". By 1971, the idea of employing leading designers and famous artists to attract attention had extended to the likes of Buckminster Fuller, Georgia O'Keeffe and Roy Lichtenstein, who all contributed to Oliver's Save Our Planet series.



Shock tactics range from a late-Forties Royal Society for the Protection of Birds poster based on a traditionally-styled scraper-board, by Charles Tunnicliffe depicting a bird drenched in oil, to F.H.K. Henion's chilling photo-mon-

tague of skull imagery for the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament in 1963. Caricature conveys the message where the pressure comes from a local group with a limited budget, like the Campaign Against 'Downy' Expansion. For Lynx's anti-fur campaign, a fashion picture by David Bailey employs an altered image device to make its point. Children's drawings are frequently employed — for lead-free petrol, for marine conservation, for litter avoidance, even for the West German Green Party poster in 1979. Children, after all, are the future.

NICOLE SWENGLEY

Green Images: Posters and Printed ephemera from February 1940 May 25 on Level 3 of the Henry Cole Wing at the Victoria & Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7.

Gay patrol get on their bikes

Robert Cockburn on how Sydney's homosexuals are fighting the homophobes

The invitation was to ride pillion on the black Harley Davidson of the leader of the Dykes on Bikes gang, patrolling Sydney's homosexual nightspots. "You can be my 'Harley slut'," Nora Savona, aged 36, a welder and artist, laughed over the phone.

Dykes on Bikes, also known as the Vixen Motorcycle Club, tend not to pay their "tags" (registration) fees. Actor Slye Wasey sits Tricite, a windblown French poodle, on her Honda's petrol tank. But more remarkable, in this city, the lesbian bikers have joined forces with the police to stop attacks on homosexuals.

In homosexual areas of Sydney such as Surry Hills, half of all street attacks are on homosexual men and women. With the two-way radios that they carry on their patrols, Dykes on Bikes have become the police's eyes and ears in an attempt to stop the traditional Aussie sport of "poofter bashing".

"Rule number one, naaaaaah poofters!" Monty Python's Australian philosophers announced in an

'Bondi beach became a killing ground for those who did not fit the mould'

early sketch concerning Aussie homophobia. More than 20 years later, sexual fears generated in this male-dominated land are being blamed for turning the bashers into murderers.

One night in 1989, high above Sydney's Bondi beach, John Russell, a homosexual, was beaten up and flung on to the rocks below. A year later, Kon Rathanyura-Thaporn was hurled from the same cliff. The beach, famous for its bronzed icons of Australian manhood, had become a killing ground for those who did not fit the mould. Like homosexual television newsreader Ross Warren, thrown off the cliffs from Tamarana Beach, in the next bay. Eight schoolboys confessed to killing one Bondi victim because of his sexuality. Another man's throat was slashed and the word "pooft" carved into his blood-soaked mattress.

Two champions have emerged: Ms Savona and Sue Thompson, a government lawyer who believes that the best way to offer homosexuals protection is to work with the very institution that fostered sexual discrimination. Having long ignored the violence, and often taken part, Sydney police are now starting to listen to homosexuals. There has even been a greater acceptance of homosexual police officers. An unlikely sexual revolution is underway.

From a tiny work space in the New South Wales police headquarters, Ms Thompson, aged 34, runs her fragile community experiments, including homosexual workshops in schools supported by principals and senior officers. She joined the police force as a civilian



Neighbourhood watch: (from left) Michael Aaronson, Nora Savona, Lee Anderson, Chris Smith, Craig Gardiner and Sue Thompson are part of the drive to ensure the safety of Sydney's homosexuals

employee two years ago — to the derision of many of her friends in the homosexual community — to address prejudice on the inside. In Australian parlance, it was "a big ask", or, as she says, "like teaching an elephant to dance".

Ms Thompson took the job after a close friend, a homosexual doctor, was murdered at his home. "I saw the ad for the police job and thought: life is short, do something that makes a difference."

As the new Police Gay and Lesbian Client Group Consultant (a title, she says, she built links with homosexuals who, in New South Wales, were criminals until 1984 — and can still be treated as such, under the lingering laws which still allow entrapment).

The author Patrick White, who declared his homosexuality in 1979, privately put enormous pressure on Neville Wran, then NSW's premier, for change. Only now is the tide turning — and the reasons for the change contain an intriguing paradox.

Despite its rampant homophobia, Sydney is challenging San Francisco as the world's homosexual capital. The highlight of the three-week gay festival which starts next week will be the annual gay and lesbian Mardi Gras on February 29. Overseas tourists will flock in by the jumbo-load. Recession-hit Qantas and city hotels will be booked out. Fifty thousand people will watch the procession snake through city streets. A giant mock-up of the head of the Rev Fred Nile, Australia's leading anti-homosexual campaigner, will be served up on a platter, and people will be able to visit the spot where, in 1812, a homosexual man was hanged for an "unnatural act".

Trying to end discrimination in a bastion of male conservatism like the NSW police has been a mammoth task. To start with, Ms Thompson set up what became a spectacularly rowdy meeting between angry homosexuals and startled senior police trying to do the right thing.

Too many people remembered the euphemistic Garden and Parks Squads that practised entrapment in homosexual areas.

An impetus for change had come with anti-discrimination laws passed by the Labor state government in the 1980s, including the decriminalisation of homosexuality in 1984. In 1990 the Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby published its *Streetwatch Report*, detailing the violence for the first time and demanding cooperation from the police.

Now, Scotland Yard's Community Involvement Branch has sought Ms Thompson's advice on discrimination problems within London's police.

Ms Thompson says that, in Sydney, beatings by police have stopped. "That used to go on with young police recruits. An initiation ceremony. First thing that would happen was they would be taken out 'poofter bashing'. They were certainly never going to report it."

"You still get [police] harassment and intimidation, though. I couldn't say that it doesn't go on."

The number of confirmed murders of homosexuals has fallen, from five in 1990 to three last year. Estimating assaults on homosexuals is more complicated, with increased reporting distorting trends. In 1990-91 Surry Hills



Drag net: revellers at a Sydney gay and lesbian Mardi Gras

police recorded 363 street assaults, of which Ms Thompson says half were on homosexuals. At least another 1,000 go unreported. The 30 per cent increase recorded so far for 1991-92 could be a result of increased reporting.

One fact to emerge is that males aged between 14 and 25 tend to attack homosexuals men, while attacks on lesbians come from much older men.

The main task is to convince homosexuals that it is safe and worthwhile to report attacks. Police advertisements appear in the homosexual press. Police lia-

son officers work in Surry Hills, and a police bus tours the area at weekends.

Under the command of Sergeant Brian Brakespear, undercover operations in Oxford Street — a strip of restaurants, boutiques, sex shops and coffee bars that is the homosexual heartland of Sydney — have led to several arrests for assault on homosexuals. One of the undercover policemen, Senior Constable Gary Castledine, has twice been beaten up.

Within the homosexual community, street patrols are run by Michael Glynn and Michael

Aaronson, who cooperate with the police despite reservations about the apparent change of heart. Equipped with two-way radios and a base station in the back of Numbers, a sex shop in Oxford Street, they patrol from Thursday to Sunday until dawn.

Chief Inspector Kerry Beggs, of the Surry Hills police department, displays a kind of gay pride about his district. It stretches north, from the Sydney Cricket Ground, with its surrounding parklands and wealthy suburbs, up to Oxford Street and Taylor Square, bordering the essentially heterosexual red light district of Kings Cross. He chose to work here because of its complex urban problems.

"There are crooks out there," Mr Beggs says, "rotten bloody mongrel hoodlums who prey on all people. Gay people are part of our responsibility, like old ladies and everyone else."

Ms Thompson's work is going beyond the street and into the NSW government's health and education departments. With the support of Chief Superintendent Alf Peate, she has held homosexual workshops for high-school students, and work on a full training package for schools is nearing completion. The police are also promoting homosexual studies for use by the education department in New South Wales.

But in Queensland, police prejudice continues. There they still talk about Erica Morely Punshon. In 1987, at the age of 104, Ms Punshon was questioned about her sexuality and suitability to be a roving ambassador for World Expo '88. Ms Punshon, a lesbian, answered: "I'm not afraid to say I love my friend."

UK PROGRESS

Britain has yet to accept the sort of sea change seen in Australia and the United States, where at least one city deliberately employs homosexual officers to help police the homosexual community. Stewart Tandler writes. The British police are, however, beginning to tackle the problems, though perhaps not as speedily as homosexuals would like.

The continuing suspicion between the homosexual community and the police was one of the issues touched on last year during a meeting between John Major and Sir Ian McKellen, the actor.

Last summer Scotland Yard began a scheme to monitor the extent of attacks. The scheme, initiated in Hampshire and the London boroughs of Battersea, Holloway and Kensington, includes a poster assuring homosexuals that the police are attempting to halt violence. Officers are also attending courses to help them become more sympathetic towards the homosexual community. All attacks regarded as homophobic by the victim, the police or any witnesses will be recorded in the same way as racial attacks.

The force is also coming under pressure to recognise homosexuals within its ranks. A 500-strong organisation for homosexual officers was formed two years ago and some have declared their sexual status. Leicestershire, Bedfordshire and South Yorkshire have issued policy directives against discrimination, and the Yard is expected to follow.

As competition increases in the business of style, the professionals have taken over from the fashion plates

Voguish women in glossy jungle



Alexandra Shulman (right) is following in the footsteps of Beatrix Miller (left) and Liz Tilberis

advertising, since there was no competition at that rarified-top end of the market. Indeed, at one point, in the early 1970s Vogue produced 14 issues a year, simply to provide the extra pages. Ms Miller shunned all forms of publicity and rarely appeared in public. She worked long hours and edited every comma in the magazine, but she did not perceive her role as representational. Why should she, since the advertising pages rolled in on their own?

London was regarded as the centre of the universe — the most junior of editors were sent to cover the Paris collections, which occasionally won only two pages in the magazine. The rest was taken up with, esoteric pictures of girls wading around with what looked dangerously like dishcloths on their heads.

But by the time Ms Miller retired in 1984, fashion had become a global business. Advertising was no longer the gravy train it had been, and British editions of *Mari-Claire*, *Elle* and *Mirabella* were providing competition. The parent company in New York felt the time had come for British Vogue ("Brogue") to be radically changed, for its charming amateurish British approach to be overhauled.

Anna Wintour was brought over from New York to inject New York professionalism, real clothes and international awareness into the magazine. Burberrys were chopped off at the thigh, fitness moved into the centre frame and Ms Wintour began to treat British designers and photographers as teacher's pets who thought that Vogue owed them support. Ms Wintour also set new person-

al standards. She was regularly at her desk by 7am when her first child was less than two months old. She put in long days at the magazine when eight months' pregnant with her second, still wearing size 6 couture and eight-inch Manolo Blahnik shoes.

So when Liz Tilberis took over three years ago, she inherited a different magazine from the one she had worked on for 17 years

previously. Her tenure was a success, as reflected in the circulation, which at 181,000 is at its highest, and by healthy advertising figures, which she achieved by moving the tiller a few compass points back towards British fashion. She proved to be adept at dealing with the anorexic neuroses of the fashion room and had an excellent features editor — Alexandra Shulman, on whom she could

lean heavily to bolster her self-confessed ignorance of the world of words, as features are called so subtly in Vogue House.

Ms Tilberis never forgave Nicholas Coleridge, the editorial director, for pinching Ms Shulman overnight and placing her at the helm of the then new and struggling *GQ*. There, Ms Shulman increased the circulation largely by applying the rules of

women's magazines with such irresistible features as "What Women Really Like in Men". *GQ's* circulation is now 90,000, and gratifyingly for Conde Nast, its rival at National Magazine, *Esquire*, this half-year failed to divulge circulation figures.

At Conde Nast they do not pick editors for their parentage or private incomes any more, but they do like to recruit from within their own company for posts in the higher echelons. Ms Shulman, 34, is certainly a Conde Nast girl, albeit a far cry from the sort who used to edit in white gloves. She earned her spurs on *Tatler*, proved herself as the features editor on *Vogue*, and then wisely went as the woman's editor to a national newspaper, the *Sunday Telegraph*, where she acquired vital journalistic reflexes and a wider view of the work than could ever be culled from the ivory towers of Conde Nast magazines.

She also has ink in her veins. Her father is the drama critic and former *Vogue* columnist Milton Shulman. Her mother, Drusilla Beyfus, was for many years associate editor at *Vogue* and was long thought to be a possible successor to Ms Miller. Although she was not the first choice for the job (the post was first offered to Suzy Menkes of the *International Herald Tribune*, who turned it down a week ago), Ms Shulman was always in the frame, along with Anna Harvey, now named as her deputy, and the American fashion writer Joan Juliet Buck.

The dovecoat at *Vogue* is doubtless twittering over Ms Shulman's appointment, unnerved by the appointment of a words person.

But she is a professional who believes that a good editor should be able to grapple with any subject. "Whether it's men, women, dogs or horses makes little difference," she has said. "The contents of the magazine — fashion, style and design — are things I've dealt with before."

Her appointment is a tribute to her, and a reflection of just how tough things are out there in the fashion jungle.

EMMA SOAMES

TOMORROW

"This was the face that symbolised the woman soldier in the Gulf war — the mother in camouflage, with a badge of her baby daughter pinned to her helmet. It is clear, despite the Scud attacks and the sight of Iraqi corpses, that the worst part of her war was separation from her daughter." Kate Muir on women at war and peace in Times Women on Wednesday

of green
Don't let them sell on Britain

Where did Daddy go?

Davina Lloyd wonders where modern fathers go to when you need them most

If you are looking for a man who is about to turn into a father, you will not find him anxiously pacing the corridors outside the delivery ward. Nor is he to be sighted at his local, ready to hand round the cigars.

He is far more likely to be in the birth, watching the foetal monitor, recommending the appropriate level of breathing, sponging his partner's brow — bearing up while she bears down. Three-quarters will welcome their babies into the world (as many as 90-95 per cent at Guy's and King's College hospitals in London).

What happens after new man turns into new father is a mystery. You might spot him in television commercials: driving his insomniac offspring round the block in his high-performance car to get it to sleep; sharing bottled water with it; or planning for its future with thoughtful, far-sighted insurance policies.

In life, the species is harder to locate. There will be a smattering at the school gates, a few in the back row at the Nativity play, one or two pushing swings at the weekend. Considering that there are some 800,000 live births each year, you could expect to see new father more in evidence — and doing a bit of fathering. In an attempt to track down the elusive genre, I recently issued a challenge to the readers of *Practical Parenting* magazine. Had anyone seen one and could they supply photographic evidence?

From a readership of 150,000, I received one snapshot of new father in action. He was sitting on a sofa with a baby in his arms and a toddler beside him. A closer look revealed that both baby and father were asleep, and the toddler was drawing on his father's trousers with a felt-tip pen.

Fathers, it seems, are present at the birth because they are expected, and encouraged, to be there. Many have had the lessons. More than 10,000 attend antenatal "couple classes" run by the National Childbirth Trust. Those who go to the classes go to the birth. And there endeth the lessons — and the fathering.

That the experience of childbirth contributes to demotivating a man from participating further may be true. He is a team supporter, there for his partner. Afterwards, he is excluded. Mother and baby need time to rest, time together, time alone, is probably what he will be told. After stage three of labour — the expulsion of the placenta — comes stage four, the expulsion of the father.

Certainly society does not help. Few employers permit time off after the birth as a paternal perk;

fathers work their longest hours during the years their children are youngest. In families where both parents work, it is generally assumed by all that the mother will take time off if a child is ill.

The latest Social Trends report, published last week, reveals that ever more families are managing without a father at all. Four in ten divorces occur three to nine years after the marriage (when the children are young), and 13 per cent of children are raised by lone mothers. More fathers are not doing any fathering.

The organisation Families Need Fathers claims that fathers want and ought to remain involved after separation. Yet a recent study found that almost half the fathers lost touch with their children, and that these absentees simply found staying in touch too difficult and distressing.

Many fathers admit that they withdraw from involvement in the day-to-day care of their babies during the "nappy changing stage", partly from disinclination and partly from the lack of opportunity.

"New mothers can be very territorial — and working mothers are probably worse," says Richard Seal, the author of *The Uncertain Father*. "They offer crumbs from a table of riches. Women tend to define parenting in terms of mothering. They want men to share the task as they see it."

If this were true, and even if women allowed men to participate in parenting, how well could most men do it? They model their performance on that of their own fathers, who were expected to do little for very young children. Most men are more comfortable with older children, when involvement can be activity-oriented — taking them out, teaching games or sports.

The lessons do exist. Parent-Link is a support and education group providing a programme of parenting skills for men and women. Tim Khan, of Parent-Link, says: "It is unreasonable to expect fathers to be involved without offering them the opportunity to learn the appropriate skills." At present only a tenth of those who undertake the courses are men, and he admits that those who attend are likely to be "new men" already, the converted who are less in need of preaching.

A few fathers are taking the lessons: some become more involved as their children grow; many are doing a far, far better thing than their own fathers did. But most fathers have a great deal further to go.

Davina Lloyd is the editor of *Practical Parenting* magazine.

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Beginnings: men are in at the birth but absent elsewhere



No worries: Sara Grant with one of her charges, James, aged 3. She will join the Willes family's skiing holiday, "but I won't be upset if I never get on the piste"

Nanny takes a trip

A nanny can make — or break — a family holiday. As Britons head for the ski slopes, Hilaire Gomer and Charlotte Breese offer a user's guide to getting away without tears

Some nannies travel, some achieve travel and some have travel thrust upon them. Employers and nannies often finish a family holiday feeling mutually cheated and grumpy. Particularly so after an expensive skiing holiday involving the nanny's airfare and ski pass.

As with every aspect of having a nanny, the path to a friction-free partnership comes back to trying to eliminate differing perceptions of what the job entails.

A holiday is meant to be a treat for everyone and, in theory at least, a perk for the nanny. The prospect of March in Klosters and August in Sardinia or Provence — rather than a mere beach holiday in sunny Skegness — can be a definite incentive for a prospective employee.

On the other hand, experienced nannies know (oh, so well) about the 24-hour commitment expected by employers on their holiday, and these wise owls like their paid leave to coincide with the family's summer trip. In this case, affluent families hire a second pair of hands for the holiday while others may seek holidays where child care is part of the package (see right). Scores of parents who work have no choice but to ask the nanny to organise her own holiday when they take the children on theirs. As one such mother puts it: "It is far from a rest for me to take two-year-old Joshua with us, but the holidays are the only time either of us sees him properly."

Sarah Willes, the owner of Blues agency, which supplies cooks worldwide, and the mother of Guy, aged 5, and James, aged 3, always takes her nannies on holiday. "I wouldn't want to hire a temp," she explains, "because I work and I'm very fussy about who looks after my children."

In March her current nanny, Sara Grant, aged 34, an SRN-trained Australian, will join the Willes family on their skiing holiday. "I trust Sara totally," Ms Willes says. "She came on holiday with us to Majorca last summer and it was a great success. She is a superb nanny and she'll give me and my husband peace of mind while we're skiing."

Ms Grant has been a nanny for five years in the UK and is a veteran of many successful family

holidays. Her routine at the ski resort will be similar to her London one: taking and collecting Guy and James from ski school, shopping and preparing lunch and supper, and entertaining the boys at the holiday flat. Although she will put in more hours and get a day off a week instead of two, she will not expect anything extra. Nor does she expect to do much skiing herself, but she may well book in for some lessons on her day off. "But I won't be upset if I never get on the piste," she says cheerfully.

But for every holiday-proof nanny there are a thousand anecdotes told by frustrated mums about how useless theirs was — how she

stood about the airport/carpark/beach/hotel not taking the initiative and proving to be just one more person to worry about.

Too few employers remember to make clear, as early as the interview, that the family holiday will mean that the nanny is away from family, friends and discos for two, six, eight weeks — and still doing her job. As one mother, who obviously got it wrong, complains: "As soon as my back's turned she's spreadeagled on the sand soaking up the sun. I find I am full-time lifeguard and sandcastle construction engineer and feel exhausted after two weeks."

The absurd position in which

some employers find themselves is illustrated by the Geldof family, spotted setting off on holiday from Heathrow. Bob was carrying a baby and luggage. Paula was carrying Fifi Tridbelle and more luggage while the nanny strode on in front unencumbered. One can only gasp, "Is That It?"

Parents experiencing for the first time the "nanny came too" scenario should spell it out that it will be a working holiday for her and, as Angela Hovey of the Occasional and Permanent Nannies agency emphasises, it may be harder and often looser work than the domestic routine she is used to, where the parents are

pulling their weight with home-work and school runs.

A mature nanny's comment is music to employers' ears: "When we're on holiday my free time goes out the window. I take a few days off to compensate afterwards. I do not expect to go wherever they go when we're abroad. Some nannies go out all the time, leaving their employers stuck in hotel lounges. I say, 'You make any plans; you want, then they can do things at the last minute and not bother about upsetting me.'"

If the confrontational aspect of calling your holiday your holiday is difficult for you, appeal to your partner's self-interest. Get your partner to take the nanny aside and make an impassioned plea so that she understands that, much as you are both looking forward to a holiday with the children, he and you desperately need time alone to recharge a flagging relationship. It is proper to offer her a cash bonus at time off in lieu for the extra work.

Even if you give your nanny plenty of notice about the holiday and have briefed her about its probable rigours, be braced for surprises. Some nannies and mother's helps are unhinged by the experience of travelling — many may have never been abroad before. They can sulk because they spend hours alone with the children on the beach, or are left babysitting night after night. They can miss their mother or their boyfriend and get drunk and be sick everywhere. Some go AWOL, run up huge telephone and/or room service bills, or leap into the arms of the nearest male. Many do none of these things.

One employer tells the story of friends, who took their nanny skiing with their children. One night they came back from dinner to find the nanny in bed with a ski instructor when she was supposed to be babysitting. "The parents booted the man out and went to bed. Not long afterwards they heard familiar noises and discovered the nanny and the instructor at it again. The nanny was not sacked; they needed her to look after the children, didn't they?"

Hilaire Gomer and Charlotte Breese are the authors of *The Good Nanny Guide* (Century, £9.99).

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WHERE TO FIND A HOLIDAY WITH A CRECHE

When Janet and Peter Nicholson went skiing in Courchevel in the French Alps last year, they had no qualms about taking Oliver, their five-month-old baby, and Luke, his four-year-old brother, to the French Alps with them.

The Nicholsons stayed in a catered chalet where, every day after breakfast, the dining-room became a creche staffed by qualified English nannies. While their children — Kerry, six, and Katie, seven — went to ski school, the Nicholsons could head for the slopes knowing that their younger ones were in safe hands.

The Nicholsons went with Ski Spirit, one of a number of specialist companies now offering the services of nannies to clients. Vanda Bauer, the sales and administration manager, says: "We introduced the creches last season, staffed by trained nursery nurses. The ratio is one adult to five children."

"We advertise in the *Lady*. We insist that nannies bring their NNEB or registered general nurse (RGN) certificates and we check at least two references."

The concept of "nannied" chalets is growing in popularity. Crystal Holidays, which claims to be the second-largest ski tour operator in the country, has included the option for the first

time this year, offering the service at five French Alps chalets. Paul Carter, the ski product manager, says: "Each chalet has at least one English-speaking NNEB or RGN. We cater for children between the ages of two months and five years. Our nannies must be at least 20. And we check qualifications and references."

Austrian specialist Ski Hillwood also has nannies working in Hopfgarten and Neustift.

And this year Sun Spirit (Ski Spirit's summer self) is employing some English nannies at Maubuisson and Morzine in France to take children to the locally-run creches, where they will make sure that they are settled in. There is no additional charge for the service.

Club Med separates children into age groups: the Baby Club is for those aged four months to a year; the P/Tit Club for the two to four, and the Mini Club for the four to nine. Amanda Milton, its spokeswoman, says: "More than 70 of our 110 villages cater for children from dawn until dusk."

Although the big three British tour operators — Thomson, Owners Abroad and Airtours — also run free clubs for children, they operate only for a few hours a day.

Seventy-eight hotels and apartments in Thomson's Summer Sun brochure have Big T and Little T

Clubs catering for children between three and 11, for two to four hours daily, six days a week. Airtours has the Getaway Gang for three to 12-year-olds, six days a week. Under the Owners Abroad umbrella, Enterprise and Sun Med have Sunbeam Clubs and Falcon has Family Fun Clubs for the two to 11s.

The advantage of the summer holiday clubs is that they are free. It costs extra to leave children with nannies on ski tours. Ski Spirit charges £87 for the all-day creche (8.30am-5pm), seven days a week, and £60 for five days a week, including lunch. Crystal charges £69 for five days (9.30am to 4.30pm) plus £13.95 a week for lunch. Ski Hillwood looks after children from 9.15am to 4.30pm at £95 a week.

However, parents tend to think that the money is well spent. As Mrs Nicholson says: "It's good value. When you spend £2,000 on a holiday it seems silly to quibble over the cost of the creche."

LEE RODWELL

• Ski Spirit, Oaklands, Reading Road North, Fleet, Hampshire GU13 8AA; 0253 616789.
• Crystal Holidays, Crystal House, The Courtyard, Ailing Road, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 6BW; 081-390-8033.
• Ski Hillwood, 2 Field End Road, Pinner, Middlesex; 081-866-9998.

Snails? Puppy-dogs' tails? Never

The saying "boys will be boys" implies slightly naughty, rough, insensitive behaviour — in other words, boyish. On the whole, it is not questioned: bullies will be bullies, boys boys and girls girls. It is taken that certain behaviour can't be changed.

Myriam Miedzian, a philosophy doctor, has chosen to challenge that precept. She has taken the phrase as a title of a book with the sub-title "Breaking the link between masculinity and violence". She takes the stance that group male behaviour, and she stresses group, is violent, competitive, emotionally suppressed, dominant and insensitive. And can be changed.

In the light of escalating violence in America, she decided to look at the problem and existing literature on the subject from leading psychologists on crime, sport, boys and even books such as William Golding's *Lord of the Flies*. What are the factors that make a sector of society violent? Role models? Macho

men like Stallone or Schwarzenegger? Boys spending leisure time watching television, sport, playing computer games, many of them violent? In America, by the age of 18, a child will on average have seen 26,000 murders on television.

David Rosenberg, the founder and former director of the Fortune Society, an American non-profit making organisation for ex-convicts, says: "Child abuse, racism, drugs and alcohol habits and poverty are at the top of lists in any study of anti-sociality. Yet daughters grow up in the same home as sons. But young girls rob, steal and kill with one-tenth of the frequency of their male counterparts."

There were two factors that nudged Ms Miedzian to research this book. One was the realisation when reading *In A Different Voice* by the Harvard professor Carol Gilligan, that the studies of human moral development had been based entirely on boy's behaviour only — but

Boys do not necessarily have to be boys, says a study of aggression



Myriam Miedzian wants social skills taught at school

has been related as normal behaviour for both sexes.

The other was based on her own experience. Her father, born in Poland in 1901, had been aware of wars all his life and imbued her with "the insanity, the absurdity, the cruelty of people killing". To her father, toughness, dominance, emotional detach-

ment and callousness towards women were not the mark of a man. "To my father macho meant Nazis in lacquered boots dragging his brothers and sisters and their young children to their deaths."

Her tenet is that the behaviour of boys and girls is not that greatly dissimilar but

people's treatment of them from an early age differs. There is evidence from her book that boys with high testosterone levels "are more easily frustrated, more irritable and more impulsive". With those qualities and "while rough-and-tumble is usually not violent... it would tend to encourage the expression of anger or frustration through physical activity".

Nurturing is the word that sticks in the male craw: "When I talk about classes encouraging caring, nurturing, empathy in boys, they see wimpy, effeminate."

The fear is that boys will turn overnight into wimps — or worse, in the macho male heterosexual mind, homosexual. Some research shows that homosexuals are often the result of distant, unemotional fathers. One theory is that machismo encourages homosexuality. If a boy does not fit into the masculine stereotype role of his father, then there is more likelihood

of his finding a role model elsewhere.

Ms Miedzian's proposal is simply that if English, mathematics and history are taught in school, why not social skills crucial to actual living?

Programmes instigated in America have had a certain success. Taking the line that living is not instinctive, and that much of today's culture — slasher films, television, advertising and computer games — encourages an acceptable face for violence, any discussion examining emotions — how to reason, seeing problems from another point of view and the need for self-esteem and self-respect — is positive.

One 11-year-old, after his "conflict resolution programme", said: "My first reaction was to fight with my fists. Now that's gone and my first reaction is the last resort."

LAURIS MORGAN GRIFFITHS

Boys Will Be Boys is published on January 30 by Virago (£6.99)

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

TIME SPENT WITH CHILDREN

Q How much time have you spent in the last week doing each of the following with your children?

Eating family meals together: 3hrs 36mins (on average)

Playing with your children: 3hrs 36mins

Watching television with your children: 3hrs 25mins

Talking to them about their feelings and emotions: 3hrs 41mins

Pursuing hobbies/sports with your children: 3hrs 2mins

Visiting places of interest with them: 2hrs 55mins

Helping them with homework: 1hr 5mins

Attending church with your children: 15 mins

Based on 891 with children under 18. Source: MORF Reader's Digest.

Mrs Mills, the fraud fighter

Undaunted by cases of the magnitude of BCCI and Maxwell, the director of the Serious Fraud Office tells Frances Gibb how she investigates financial scandals

Barbara Mills, QC, does not have the expected image of a City fraud fighter. For somebody in charge of combating £4.5 billion worth of fraud, including the missing Maxwell millions, the director of the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) appears to carry her cares lightly.

Yet Mrs Mills and the SFO are under close scrutiny. The powers of investigators generally are being challenged, with critics arguing that they erode the defendant's traditional right to silence, and in particular the SFO's own controversial power to compel people to answer questions under section 2 of the Criminal Justice Act 1987 is being tested in the Court of Appeal.

At the same time, the incidence and scale of fraud, coupled with the mounting sums involved, has put the SFO increasingly under the spotlight. Since the SFO was set up in April 1988, specifically to combat serious fraud, investigations have included Polly Peck, Guinness, BCCI, County NatWest and Barlow Clowes.

The Maxwell investigation is one of the largest undertaken by the SFO, matched only by that into the BCCI, and will involve, as that did, extra funding from Parliament, which could amount to £3 million.

Mrs Mills is undaunted. Efficient and trim, she clearly thrives on her task of spearheading the fight against large-scale fraud. She says: "It is a busy job and there is obviously a heavy workload. But I am not a worrier. Everybody works very hard and we just get on with it."

"Obviously we would like to see fraud diminish, which must be in the interests of the community at large, and I hope that our activities are a deterrent to fraud. But I don't think in terms of the immensity or impossibility of the task just doing it in the most effective, efficient and economical way."

The office, with its £15.7 million budget and 130 full-time staff of lawyers, accountants and administrators, is still handling the same number of cases as when Mrs Mills succeeded John Wood, the first SFO director, in September 1990. Yet the value of the 60 frauds being tackled has soared from £1.3 million to £4.5 billion.

Mrs Mills says: "Cases are much larger, much more complicated, and involve much greater sums of money." One reason is that the world is getting smaller... there are vast numbers of bank accounts and ways in which money can be transferred.

Apart from the work of the office, the director herself is also in the public eye as one of those tipped to become Director of Public Prosecutions since Allan Green QC resigned after being stopped by police for kerb-crawling.

Mrs Mills typifies the new breed of career woman: at 51, she is one of the relatively few female QCs of her generation. A mother of four grown children, she none the less

succeeded in forging a career at the Bar where she specialised in criminal trials, commercial ones in particular. Having children, she once said, had not held her career back.

"I have made it my business to put in 105 per cent of effort in this respect," she says. "I have hacked out an unusual role and I think I may have contributed to a change in attitude."

Her bent is prosecution work: she was prosecuting counsel to the Inland Revenue, then junior Treasury counsel at Central Criminal Court from 1981 to 1986. She prosecuted Michael Fagan, after he broke into the Queen's bedroom in 1982, and was second prosecuting counsel in the Guinness trial. But she also appeared for the defence in the trial of the murder of PC Blakelock at Tottenham in north London.

For the moment, though, her brief is the SFO, and in the face of critics, she is vigorous in its defence. Delays in bringing cases to trial and in the length of trials, she says, have improved and in all but a few cases, it takes on average a year from when the SFO takes on a case to the start of trial, although the "increasing international nature of fraud" slows things up.

The Roskill committee on fraud trials, which proposed the creation of the SFO, ushered in other proposals to cut delays, such as preparatory hearings where the main issues are identified before trial. These have all helped, Mrs Mills says, but it is too soon to judge their full impact. She does not, however, favour reviving the controversial Roskill proposal that

juries be scrapped for fraud trials, remaining an ardent supporter of the jury system. The SFO has less control over the trial: Mrs Mills insists that cases are being simplified. But it would help, she insists, to have a new, simple offence of fraud, as in Scotland.

"The Law Commission looked at this," she says, "and there are considerable difficulties, but I think it is worth looking at again because it would help with the large number of counts on the indictment."

She also rebuts any criticisms of the section 2 power, which enables the SFO to question anybody suspected of fraud, or of knowledge of fraud, on pain of six months' jail for silence, "without reasonable excuse".

The power, a crucial weapon in the fight against fraud, must be carefully used, Mrs Mills says. She cites the case of the collapse of an investment company. People who have put in their savings have suddenly, without warning, lost all their money. Such investors are the true victims, she says.

The power has been called "draconian" and an infringement of the right to silence. Mrs Mills dismisses both as misconceiving the power's purpose and the way it is used. Parliament debated the matter and decided the SFO should have it "because of the enormous problem of investigat-



'We are investigating cases nobody would have tackled before. We are breaking new ground'

BARBARA MILLS, the director of the Serious Fraud Office

ing fraud." She adds: "It can be used only if the person being questioned becomes a defendant, and if, when he or she gives evidence, he contradicts what he said earlier."

Nor is it novel, she says; the power has been used for years by the trade and industry department (DTI). Yet its use has risen, and in 1990-91, 765 notices were served, either requiring answers or documents. Mrs Mills points out that only 27 per cent of the recipients were unwilling; often bankers or accountants welcome the notices because it relieves them of their client-confidentiality obligations.

She admits that the power carries risks. "But what is more important that we should be able to investigate properly, for people who are the innocent victims?"

The power awaits a ruling by the Court of Appeal. The High Court has already held that if somebody is already charged with a criminal offence, he cannot be compelled by fraud investigators to answer questions on that offence. Mrs Mills says she can "live with that ruling", but has appealed to have the law clarified.

When the appeal court rules, the SFO will brace itself for another debate because it may seek to extend the power, so that section 2 interviews are admissible as part of the prosecution case. There is an anomaly in that although the SFO can use any interview material handed over by the DTI investigators, the SFO cannot use its own interview material as evidence.

Speculation about the post of

DPP meanwhile continues. Mrs Mills is coy, refusing to discuss the issue. However, with her experience with fraud, she has ideas about what might be grafted on to the rest of the criminal justice system.

One idea is greater use of preparatory hearings; another is for more professional investigations, involving police, lawyers and accountants, working side by side. Whether Mrs Mills moves or stays however, the fraud office has its work cut out. The outcome of the Barlow Clowes and County NatWest cases are awaited with interest as the next verdicts to put the office to the test.

"We believe we are investigating cases nobody would have tackled before," she says. "We are breaking very new ground."

Why judges are better trained

A QUIET revolution has taken place in judicial training, according to the newly published report of the Judicial Studies Board. When Lord Chief Justice Parker was appointed to the High Court bench in 1950, he had little experience of criminal law and, as a biographer recalled, "the first summing-up in a criminal case that he heard was one he delivered himself".

Sir Neville Faulks, in his autobiography, explained how, after a successful libel practice at the Bar, he was appointed a judge of the probate, divorce and admiralty division of the High Court in 1963. The only training he had was to spend the Christmas vacation "reading very carefully" the leading textbook on divorce law.

In this state of blissful judicial ignorance, the original Judicial Studies Board was established in 1979. The board was exclusively concerned with criminal law and it concentrated on training Crown Court judges in sentencing. Lord Hailsham, the Lord Chancellor, regarded "with a degree of indifference" the criticism of judges that demands

Such concerns have been proved to be entirely without foundation. As the report explains, the activities organised by the board's committees provide information about the content of law and practice, as well as a forum for discussion, which can only assist the judge to perform his role to the greater satisfaction of all interested parties.

The patient, skilful work of the board has won the judiciary's confidence in the concept of training. The time has come to move towards the establishment of a judicial college, with a judge seconded to act as full-time director of studies.

The greater complexity of law and society, the enhanced powers of the judiciary, and the more rigorous media and public analysis of judicial pronouncements, mean that no longer is it appropriate to have acting as judges men and women who have received only the most rudimentary of guidance on the exercise of such onerous responsibilities.

Of course, those who sit in judgment have many years of experience as lawyers in court and out. But deciding cases requires very different qual-



DAVID PANNICK
COUNSEL

ities, and expertise, from advising and representing clients. A Judicial College would provide the forum for ensuring that those who decide the legal rights of others have the opportunity to become acquainted, before appointment and at refresher courses during their service, with information that busy barristers and solicitors do not

necessarily obtain during their years of practice. Judges need training in two distinct areas. First, gaps may have to be filled in their knowledge of the substance and procedure of the law to keep up with legal developments.

Second, judges would benefit from the provision of broader information about subjects relevant to adjudication, such as jurisprudence, psychology, economics, and media relations.

The Woolf Report on Prison. Disturbances recommended that the board might become the vehicle for providing judges with more information about prison conditions.

In 1940, Lord Justice McKinnon recalled that as a newly appointed and ignorant judge he had "sat with my finger in the index of Archbold [the leading practitioners' textbook on criminal law] and I hope my uneasiness was not too apparent".

The work of the Judicial Studies Board has helped to make judges more competent, and more confident, than ever before. The creation of a Judicial College would further enhance the necessary training of a professional judiciary.

The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford

French doubts

THE French system of judicial supervision of the police has been held by leading figures, including Lord Scarman, Michael Mansfield QC and Sir Peter Imbert, as an example of good practice.

However, argues Richard Vogler, of Sussex University, the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice would be wise to look carefully at how the French system works in practice rather than theory.

France's system has been admired most for its examining magistracy, a body of professionals who are available in theory to supervise police investigations from the beginning.

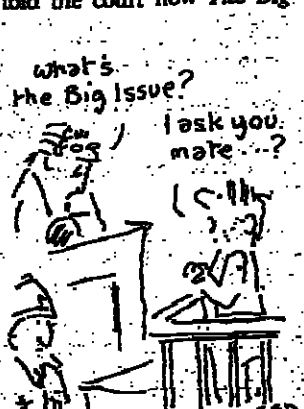
In practice, most of them are office-bound. The examining magistrates are rarely involved in police investigations and their supervision of the police is minimal. Only about 10 per cent of cases, the most serious, involve examining magistrates. The rest are investigated by the police, who are supervised by state prosecutors.

The system, says Mr Vogler, incorporates much less protection for suspects than in Britain. He concludes that French pre-trial prisoners are possibly more disadvantaged than

any others in Europe. Mr Vogler points to the irony of looking to France for a model system when France has for some years been looking to adversarial systems for inspiration.

Touching issue
MAGISTRATES have heard it was recently found by a homeless man hauled up before Bow Street Magistrates' Court for begging in Leicester Square, London.

The man explained he was begging for only enough cash to buy a consignment of *The Big Issue*, a monthly magazine for homeless people. He told the court how *The Big*



Issue works, explaining that vendors are allowed to keep 40p of each 50p cover price as a source of income.

Sir David Hopkin, the stipendiary, was so impressed by the man's story that he decided not to impose a fine. He gave the man a six-month conditional discharge and ordered him to be paid £12 from court funds so that he could 120 copies of *The Big Issue*.

Sir David said he hoped that this would enable the man to stay out of court.

Key women

WOMEN in the law seems to be this year's theme. The Bar boasts that its committees have women in seven key positions - such as Hilary Halliwell, QC, chairman of the London Common Law and Commercial Bar Association; Anne Rafferty, QC, who chairs the Bar Conference this year; Sarah Harman, who chairs the young barristers' Group; and Anne Goddard, QC, the vice-chair of the key policy-making Bar Committee.

The topic is the subject of a seminar in London today, organised by Robert Walters Associates, a recruitment consultancy, where speakers will include Kamlesh Bahl,

the company secretary of Data Logic.

She provided the model for Usha Gupta, the Asian solicitor, in *The Archers* on Radio 4. And women and the law will be a seminar topic at the Law Fair, in Islington, north London, on February 6 and 7.

Perhaps more significant than any of these is the news that women are at long last storming one of the last bastions of legal privilege: the lavatory.

Women solicitors at the new Telford County Court are allowed to share a WC with women barristers, while male solicitors and barristers are strictly segregated and have separate WCs.

Local solicitors are speculating that the barristers are provided with perfumed soap and a softer type of toilet paper unsuitable for use by the junior branch of the profession.

Wall falls

CLIFFORD Chance has set up an international finance division, and hired an American lawyer as a partner in its New York office.

Nancy Jacklin has spent time working as counsel in Citibank's head office in New York, as well as at the Federal

Reserve Board and the United States Treasury. This is another breach in the wall between the English and American firms, as each tries to set up offices that practise local law in the other's home city.

Hang-ups

TELEPHONING any of the former Soviet States has always been difficult.

When foreign companies in Moscow with Moscow offices last year tried to circumnavigate the system by asking AT&T's operators in Sweden to forward calls, Moscow cut the line.

The Russians were annoyed that instead of getting hard currency for a call to the US, for example, they got only a small rouble sum for the call to Sweden.

The Ukraine government has now decided to take matters into its own hands and remove the need for international calls to go through Moscow at all.

AT&T is setting up a joint venture with the new government to modernise and operate the long-distance and international telephone network.

AT&T is being advised in Ukraine by Baker & McKenzie.

SCRIVENOR

How to sue when a faulty house survey costs you extra, page 9

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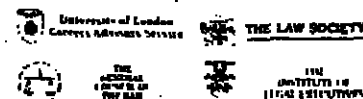
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BARCLAYS EXPERT TAX RECRUITMENT



Suing when surveyors fail

How much compensation do you get when the house you have bought turns out to have a serious defect that your surveyor failed to notice? Probably not as much as you might think.

The judgment in *Watts v Morrow* will worry homebuyers who sue their surveyor for negligence. The Court of Appeal last July made a decision that will make it harder for homebuyers to get fair compensation when they have bought a house on the basis of a negligent survey report.

Ian and Lesley Watts engaged a surveyor to carry out a full structural survey of a house they wanted to buy. The report mentioned many defects and recommended repairs, but suggested that these could be dealt with as part of ordinary maintenance. The report concluded by saying that the surveyor had "found the overall dwellinghouse to be sound, stable and in good condition".

Reassured by the report, the Watts bought the house for £177,500 and asked a builder for a quotation to remedy the defects mentioned in the report. The builder also found that the roof needed renewing, the chimneys and walls needed repointing, lead flashings had to be installed, window casements and frames needed upgrading or replacement, and that the timbers

Ashley Holmes explains the significance of a decision on a claim against house surveyors

needed specialist woodworm treatment. If the Watts had known about these more serious defects, they would not have bought the house. The value of the house in its actual condition was estimated at £162,500 — £15,000 less than they had paid. Remedial work took about six months and cost nearly £34,000.

The Watts sued the surveyor for negligence. The High Court awarded them £33,961 for the cost of repairs, and £4,000 each for distress and inconvenience. The surveyor appealed, arguing that it was wrong to base compensation on the cost of repairs.

The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal, saying that the proper measure of damages was the difference between what the house cost and what it was worth in the bad condition that should have been reported. The award of £33,961, the cost of repairs, was set accordingly aside, and judgment entered for £15,000. The award for distress and inconvenience was also slashed to £750 each.

This is a bad decision. It means that

homebuyers have no right to get what it costs to put right any defect that their surveyor missed.

They can claim only the difference between what was paid for their home and what they should have paid, had they been aware of the faults. The difference in market value will in many cases be much less than the cost of putting right the faults.

Delivering the key judgment, Lord Justice Ralph Gibson said that the cost of repair might be relevant, but only as evidence of the market price of the house in its true condition.

Compensation for the cost of repairs could, said his Lordship, apply only where the surveyor had given a warranty that the condition of the house was correctly described in the report. And, in his view, the surveyor's contract did not say that.

But surely most house-buyers think that what they are getting is a warranty on a property for which no repairs are needed beyond those mentioned in the report?

Now that has been ruled not to be the case, it is time that the limitations

are spelt out clearly on the face of the survey report. His Lordship also observed that the ordinary surveyor's contract is not one in which the subject matter is to provide peace of mind or freedom from distress. That is why the award for distress and inconvenience would be cut.

But if you hire a surveyor, do you not do so for peace of mind and in order to avoid distress and inconvenience? From now on, homebuyers should insist that their contract with a surveyor provides just that.

This is not the first time that the courts have adopted a commercial approach to what is really a human situation. A company that pays too high a price for property bought as an investment ought, perhaps only to receive the difference in values — after all, a company is in it only for the money. Real people, however, buy houses to live in.

If you find there is something wrong with the home you have bought on the strength of a surveyor's report, the least you should be able to get is reimbursement for the cost of putting it into the condition which, thanks to the surveyor, you thought it had.

Anything short of that is a grave injustice.

The author is a barrister in the legal department of the Consumers' Association

Smoke signals more business for British

Tobacco is one of the products whose advertising internationally needs well-researched advice

Whatever one may feel about the morality of tobacco advertisements, they are generally seen as a lively presence on the British advertising scene. So when the final Hamlet cigars advertisement was transmitted on television last year, it was accompanied by the kind of eulogies usually reserved for raccoons and redundant soap stars.

Hamlet fell victim to the European Commission, and over the next year we can expect to see increasing reference to European standards in advertising.

For example, there is concern over the wide-ranging attitudes towards comparative advertising. Different approaches mean that there are marked differences between the laws of the various member states.

Comparative advertising may be permitted in one country but prohibited in its neighbour. With the growth of satellite advertising, this poses particular problems. An advertiser may be restricted in his use of comparative

advertising by his own government while his competitor from across the border may be free to bombard the same potential customers with comparative advertising via the dishes on their roofs.

Advertisers themselves are getting fed up with such variation, particularly because they are increasingly interested in the idea of Europe-wide advertising campaigns.

However, differences in regulations mean that an ad originated in London or New York, for example, has to be checked for its legality in each country where use is planned.

That is good news for lawyers such as Nabarro Nathanson, Macfarlanes, and The Simkins Partnership, which have developed a formidable reputation in the UK advertising market. Some of these firms are now using their expertise and contacts in Europe to clear advertising copy for use throughout EC countries.

One such firm is Lewis Silkin, which long ago left behind its left-wing high street practice and adopted instead the manners and appearance of an advertising agency to sell its services to leading advertising agencies such as Gold Greenlees Trotter and BBDO.

Lewis Silkin has built up a network of like-minded lawyers throughout the EC so that within a day, it can fax copy and illustrations from a client and get comments back from local advertising law experts in Germany,

France, The Netherlands and other EC countries.

Advertising agencies themselves are increasingly having to sell this kind of legal assurance as part of their service. Much of the work is therefore coming to Lewis Silkin via agencies on behalf of their clients.

Although the likelihood is that in due course there will be convergence of advertising law in the EC, the various approaches to advertising still reflect wide differences in attitude.

These differences are unlikely to be reconciled within the next few months. For example, the use of lotteries and prize competitions as part of an advertising campaign is a typically complex issue faced by the lawyers.

In Britain, the standard expression "no purchase required" regularly accompanies prize draws, whereas in other EC countries no such disclaimer is required.

When things get really complicated, law-

yers such as Steve Groom, at Lewis Silkin, find themselves involved in drafting, or at least in re-writing, advertising copy, to make sure it fits the rules. Car advertisements can prove particularly tricky. Mr Groom says: "I've had directors phoning me from film locations to check last-minute script changes."

Regulating advertising has also highlighted the different views about state intervention from country to country. Some countries love it, others abhor it.

Consequently there is diversity. Member states are permitted to delegate control to self-regulatory bodies, such as the Advertising Standards Authority in Britain, although under the EC directive, anybody with a legitimate interest has the right to take legal proceedings (through their courts rather than the regulatory body) to prevent publication of misleading advertising.

The more advertising is restricted, however, the more advertisers, with clever lawyers at their side, will resort to ingenuity to get their message across. Mind you, it is possible to be too clever. The controversy over Benetton's ad campaigns shows that on matters of taste it is easy to make disastrous misjudgments.

EDWARD FENNELL

LAW REPORTS, page 11

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Industry v.
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One of our candidates moved into private practice recently after ten years as an in-house lawyer. Within the week she was on the telephone urgently seeking a position back in industry. Another candidate who had also spent many years in company legal departments moved to private practice (to a small commercial firm in the provinces) and is delighted with the change. Whether industry or private practice is more attractive depends entirely on one's personality.

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The lawyer who preferred private practice, on the other hand, enjoyed the contact with a variety of clients, the chance to develop his own area of practice, and the challenge of attracting new clients. His success in achieving high billings was reflected immediately in his earnings, and partnership status would eventually give him a higher level of remuneration than he was ever likely to get in industry. The only thing he missed was being engaged in the day-to-day management of a large multinational corporation.

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Scots Law Report January 28 1992 House of Lords

Home owner's unpaid debt not transmissible with property

David Watson Property Management v Woolwich Equitable Building Society
Before Lord Mackay of Clashfern, Lord Chancellor, Lord Keith of Kinkaid, Lord Ackner, Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle and Lord Lowry
[Speakers January 23]

An obligation to maintain the subjects of a grant imposed as a condition of the title would be enforceable against singular successors. That obligation would carry with it the obligation to pay for the work.

But when such an obligation to pay arose it would be a debt due by the owner who was at the time the work was carried out. The unpaid debt of that owner would not be transmissible.

The House of Lords so held dismissing an appeal by the pursuer, David Watson Property Management, from an interlocutor of the First Division of the Court of Session (the Lord President (Lord Hope), Lord Allanbridge and Lord Cowie) dated April 19, 1990, allowing an appeal by the defenders, Woolwich Equitable Building Society, against an interlocutor dated December 19, 1988, of the Sheriff Principal of Glasgow and Strathkelvin, Norman McLeod.

whereby an interlocutor, dated September 6, 1988, of Sheriff Brian Lockhart was affirmed.

The sheriff had granted decree against Woolwich for payment to David Watson of £179.07 with interest, as arrears of common charges in relation to a flat dwelling house at Langlands Road, Glasgow.

Mr A. C. M. Johnston, QC, Mr A. M. Philip, QC and Mr J. G. Thomson for David Watson; Mr G. N. H. Emslie, QC and Mr H. W. Currie for Woolwich.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR said that David Watson carried on business as property managers and factors and were the factors of a tenement of dwelling houses at Langlands Road, Glasgow.

In June 1986 Woolwich granted a loan to enable a David Watson to purchase one of the flats in the tenement. The loan was to be secured by means of a standard security under the Conveyancing and Feudal Reform (Scotland) Act 1970. Mr Keating, solicitor for the lender, was duly registered in the Land Register in favour of Woolwich.

By October 1987 Mr Keating was due a substantial sum in respect of arrears of monthly

instalments towards repayment of the loan and was thus in default of the obligations imposed on him by the standard conditions in security. On October 18, 1988, Woolwich entered into possession of the flat.

At that date Mr Keating was in arrears of his share of common charges payable to David Watson as factors of the tenement. Those were charges in respect of feu-duty, common maintenance accounts, insurance premiums and David Watson's management charges, all of which fell due for payment before the date when Woolwich entered into possession.

Woolwich had paid off the arrears of feu-duty but there remained outstanding the balance of the sum which amounted to £179.07. Although the sum in issue was a small one, the question which was raised was of general importance.

David Watson's demand for payment was made under section 20(5) of the 1970 Act, which provided: "There shall be deemed to be assigned to a creditor who is in lawful possession of the security subjects all rights and obligations of the proprietor relating to the management and maintenance of the subjects and

the effecting of any reconstruction, alteration or improvement reasonably required for the purpose of maintaining the market value of the subjects."

The argument for David Watson was that the obligation to pay the sum due was an obligation of the proprietor relating to the management and maintenance of the subjects. In terms of section 20(5)(b) it had to be deemed to have been assigned to Woolwich when they entered into possession. They were successful in that argument before the sheriff and the sheriff principal.

Mr Johnston pointed out that the standard security brought into the law of Scotland by the 1970 Act was described therein as "a new form of heritable security" and that accordingly the pre-existing law relating to heritable securities in Scotland was of no importance. The issue fell to be determined by applying the provisions of the Act itself describing the meaning and effect of the new form of heritable security.

Mr Emslie, on the other hand, pointed out that the new heritable security was brought by the Act into an existing structure and that, for example, section 9(5) provided "a standard security may be used" for any other

purpose for which a heritable security might be used under conditions therein set out.

That and other provisions of the Act to which he referred showed that the law of Scotland which pre-existed the 1970 Act was of continuing importance in considering the meaning and effect of the new security.

In his Lordship's opinion the most direct approach to the question posed in the appeal was by consideration of the terms of section 20(5).

The deemed assignment to a creditor in lawful possession of the security subjects provided by the subsection was to such a creditor "who is in lawful possession of the security subjects". That imported reference to a period of time, namely the period of time for which the creditor was in lawful possession of the security subjects. The provision was not effective until that period began and it ceased to have effect when that period ended.

When the section spoke of "all rights and obligations of the proprietor" it necessarily referred to those rights and obligations subsisting during the period for which the creditor was in lawful possession of the security subjects. Rights and obligations of the

proprietor which accrued before that time and had been fulfilled were clearly not deemed to be assigned and the same must be true of rights and obligations of the proprietor accruing after the period of lawful possession by the creditor had ended.

The question raised in the instant case, therefore, was determined by considering whether the debt in question subsisted at the date on which Woolwich came into lawful possession of the security subjects as an obligation of the proprietor enforceable against the proprietor as such thereafter. The whole debt fell due for payment before the date when Woolwich entered into possession.

If that obligation incurred by Mr Keating was personal to him in the sense that if he sold the property he would have the obligation to pay the debt and the purchaser from him would not have the obligation to do so, it was clear that that obligation could not be an obligation on the proprietor subsisting when Woolwich took lawful possession of the subjects.

The argument that the obligation to pay the debt in question in the present case transmitted to a person who acquired the flat from

Mr Keating was supported by reference in certain authorities, namely, *Incorporation of Tailors of Aberdeen v Courts* (1840) 1 Rob 216 and *Tennant v Napier Smith's Trustees* (1888) 15 R 671.

Mr Johnston sought to apply those authorities to the present case by suggesting that there was here a basic obligation of maintenance and that the obligation to pay arose out of it and, therefore, when the obligation to pay was unperformed, it transmitted to a successor in title of the person who originally had failed to pay.

In response, Mr Emslie referred to *Magistrates of Edinburgh v Begg* (1883) 11 R 352, *Aiton v Russell's Executors* (1889) 16 R 625 and *Marshall v Callender and Trossachs Hydrographic Co Ltd* (1898) 22 R 454.

The principle established by those authorities was that an obligation, for example, to maintain the subjects of the grant imposed as a condition of the title, was an enforceable obligation against singular successors. The practical carrying out of the obligation might involve payment of sums of money which could only be ascertained by reference to the nature of the required work as and when

it became necessary. The obligation to maintain would carry with it the obligation to pay for that work but when the obligation to pay a particular sum thus arose that would be a debt due by the owner who was at the time the work was carried out.

Therefore, where an obligation to repair had been carried out and a debt was due in consequence by the owner who had by carrying out the work performed that obligation to repair, the obligation to pay the unpaid debt of that owner would not be transmissible.

Accordingly, the obligation to pay the debt in question which was incurred by Mr Keating during his period as owner would not transmit to a successor in title to his flat. Thus there could be no grounds for holding that that debt was an outstanding obligation of the proprietor as such of the flat at the time Woolwich entered into possession.

Lord Keith, Lord Ackner, Lord Jauncey and Lord Lowry agreed. Solicitors: Sinclair Roche & Temperley for Bishop & Robertson Chartered, Edinburgh; Church Adams Tatham & Co for Dundas & Wilson CS, Edinburgh; for Brechin Robb, Glasgow.

Pre-birth injuries caused to a foetus are not suffered by a 'person'

Hamilton v Fife Health Board
Before Lord Prosser
[Judgment November 21]

Where a child died in consequence of injuries sustained when he was a foetus as a result of the fault of another person, he was not a "person" dying in consequence of personal injuries sustained by him, because at the time when the injuries were sustained, he was not a person, and accordingly a delinquent party was not obliged by the Damages (Scotland) Act 1976 to make reparation to his parents for the loss of his child.

Lord Prosser so held in the Outer House of the Court of Session, dismissing for want of relevancy averments in support of a conclusion for damages for the loss of the society of her son in an action of reparation brought by Mrs Audrey Jean Hamilton against Fife Health Board, and *quoad ultra* allowing a preliminary proof before answer.

Section 1 of the 1976 Act provides: "(1) Where a person dies in consequence of personal injuries sustained by him as a

result of an act or omission of another person, being an act or omission giving rise to a liability to pay damages to the injured person or his executor, then the person liable to pay those damages shall also be liable to pay damages... to any relative of the deceased."

(4) If the relative is a member of the family, the damages payable shall be such as the court thinks just by way of compensation for the loss of such non-patrimonial benefit as the relative might have been expected to derive from the deceased's society."

Mrs Anne Smith for Mrs Hamilton; Mr Arthur Hamilton, QC and Mr Laurence Murphy for the defenders.

LORD PROSSER said that the pursuer had given birth to a baby boy who had shown symptoms of asphyxia at birth. Three days later he died.

It was admitted that the cause of his death had resulted from certain forceps procedures carried out by doctors at the defenders' hospital. It was agreed that the allegedly negligent act occurred at a time prior to birth.

The question was whether a loss of society award was available to parents if their child died in consequence of injuries sustained by him as a result of an act or omission occurring prior to his death.

It was accepted by the pursuer that at any given moment of time a child must be either born or not born, living or not living, and that prior to being born, a child was not a "person".

Sons law had long adopted the fiction of the civil law that in all matters affecting his interests, her unborn child *in utero* should be deemed to be already born (*Enlil v Joyce* (1935 SC (HL) 57)).

However, the defenders submitted that while the child might have been deemed to be already born at times prior to his birth, that fiction could not be invoked in the interests of third parties such as the pursuer.

For the purposes of the present case, the child was neither actually nor deemed to be a person at a time when the injury was sustained, nor naturally born one at the time of his death, but his death could not be said to be "in consequence of personal injuries". "Personal injuries" meant injuries to a person. The child had quite simply lacked the status of being a person when the injuries were sustained.

The pursuer submitted that the child's injuries might initially have come into existence in the foetus before birth. Even considering them at that stage, it was submitted that they could naturally be described as personal injuries sustained by the child which that foetus became upon birth. But in any event the injuries were present in that child after its birth, and were imputed to that child's condition.

The child's subsequent deterioration in condition was plainly sustained by a person, but was the result of an act or omission at the ante-natal stage.

The contention that "personal injuries" had to relate to a "person" gave the adjective "personal" a full conditional force which it would not naturally bear one could quite sensibly describe such ante-natal injuries as "personal", without asserting that the foetus was a person.

But in any event, one could look to the impairments at the post-natal stage and if those were causally linked to an act or omission at the ante-natal stage, they would correctly be described as personal injuries sustained by the child "as a result of" that act or omission.

The pursuer further submitted that if a child was born damaged, as a result of acts before it was born, the damage had sensibly to be seen as "personal injuries" from the moment of its birth. Any other view would produce quite irrational distinctions: a disease which only manifested itself after birth would presumably give rise to a claim, although caused perhaps by an infection before birth, as would any grave condition which emerged after a child had been

born in a less grave state.

Parliament could not have intended such complicated and unjust distinctions. If there was the requisite causal connection between the ante-natal act and injuries which resulted in death, the requirements of the section were met.

The defenders responded that in law a foetus was no more a person at the ante-natal stage than at any other stage from conception onwards. The expression "personal injuries" was plainly unsuitable in relation to damage done to a foetus during the early stages of pregnancy and if the expression could not be used in relation to that stage, it could not be used in relation to any stage prior to birth.

His Lordship was satisfied that the words used in the section did not cover the situation where injury was sustained by a foetus rather than a person.

Moreover, if injuries had been sustained by a foetus, and if, for the moment, one treated the "sustaining" of injury as an event rather than a continuing state,

then the defenders were correct in submitting that the event of birth could not be seen as the "sustaining" of injury by the child.

For the purpose of section 1(1), personal injuries had to be seen as sustained at the time when they first came into existence. If that time was before birth, and if His Lordship was right that only injuries sustained by a person were within the scope of the section, then the pursuer's claim would fail.

The niceties of fact or law which were created by having to identify the point of time at which injuries were sustained were of no great importance. The pursuer had advanced an alternative contention that the section might be seen to be ambiguous and that its ambiguity might be resolved by considerations of unfairness, or of the mischief which the Act had sought to cure.

But His Lordship did not necessarily imply ambiguity and the section was unambiguous. It was unnecessary to have recourse to those considerations.

His Lordship would, however,

say that he saw no clear unfairness. If one fixed one's attention upon the original "negligent" act, it might seem unfair to distinguish, as the section evidently did, between cases where stillbirth resulted, and cases where death came after birth.

If one concentrated upon the death of persons in life, distinctions based upon the first time when injury was sustained might seem unfair. His Lordship was not persuaded that questions of fairness would here assist in interpretation.

Likewise, His Lordship was not persuaded that the Act had any purpose of curing a mischief in that particular area. Again general issues as to whether duties might be owed to the unborn, or whether culpable homicide might be committed by acts affecting a foetus which was born and then subsequently died, did not appear to be helpful in interpreting the provisions which were not expressions of general principle.

Law agents: Balfour & Manson, Nightingale & Bell, Mr Rodrick F. Macdonald.

Chancery Division

Lease a wasting asset

Lewis v Walters (Inspector of Taxes)
Before Mr Justice Mummery
[Judgment January 15]

For the purposes of computing capital gains tax liability on the sale of a residential property, a lease having less than 50 years to run was to be treated as a wasting asset even though the tenant had an option to extend the term under the provisions of the Law Reform Act 1967.

Accordingly, the provisions of Schedule 3 to the Capital Gains Tax Act 1979 (Leases of land as wasting assets) were to be applied in calculating the amount of the chargeable gain.

Mr Justice Mummery so held in the Chancery Division when dismissing an appeal by way of case stated by the taxpayer, Mr Nicholas Lewis, from a determination of Six South general commissioners upholding in principle an assessment to the tax for 1987-88 made on him as an executor of the estate of his deceased father.

Mr Lewis in person; Mr Roger Ter Haar for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE MUMMERY said that in 1987, the taxpayer and his co-tenant sold the 16-year lease of a property in Exmouth that had belonged to their father up to the time of his death in 1985.

The question was whether, as the Crown contended, the lease was a "wasting asset" within the meaning of the 1979 Act and in particular for the purposes of Schedule 3, which by virtue of section 106, had effect as to leases of land.

Section 37(1) of the Act defined "wasting asset" as "an asset with a predictable life not exceeding fifty years". Paragraph 8 of Schedule 3 to the Act contained provisions to ascertain the duration of a lease of land.

The taxpayer argued that because of the provisions in paragraph 8(5) and (6) the lease was not a wasting asset. The effect, he said, of paragraph 8(5) was that in order to decide what was the duration of the lease, it was necessary to refer to the facts which were known or ascertainable when the lease was acquired by the executors in 1985; as at that date there could have been an extension of the lease because the Leasehold Reform Act 1967 gave to a tenant the right to extend his lease for a further 50 years.

The overall result was, the taxpayer argued, that the duration of the lease for tax purposes at the date of disposal was not 16 years but 66 years.

That argument was not in accordance with the statutory provisions. Paragraph 8(5) did not apply to the facts. That

argument required for an express term that "the extension of the lease beyond a given date by notice given by the tenant" be included in the lease. The provision for extension relied on by the taxpayer was not in the terms of the lease but in the 1967 Act.

Even if the statutory right was to be regarded as a term of the lease, it did not constitute a provision "for the extension of the lease beyond a given date" within the meaning of paragraph 8(5) of the 1979 Act.

Sections 14 and 15 of the 1967 Act made it clear that what the landlord was thereby bound to grant was "a new tenancy" of the premises expiring 50 years after the existing tenancy. That new tenancy would not be an "extension of the lease" within the meaning of paragraph 8(5).

Last, on the facts of the case, the term of the lease acquired by the taxpayer and his co-tenant could not be extended by them. Their father had not during his life given notice to the landlord of a desire for an extended lease.

Neither could the taxpayer claim the right to an extension: such a right was only available by virtue of section 7 of the 1967 Act where on the death of the tenant a member of his family was resident in the house.

Solicitors: Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

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Solicitors: Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

Law Report January 28 1992

Plaintiff must show aim of defendant

Armstrong v Glofield Properties Ltd
Before Lord Justice Balcombe and Lord Justice Ralph Gibson
[Judgment January 16]

Where after the plaintiff had been guilty of unreasonable delay, the defendant so conducted himself as to induce the plaintiff to incur further costs in the reasonable belief that, notwithstanding the delay, the defendant intended to exercise the right to proceed to trial, the defendant could not then obtain dismissal of the action.

It was, however, for the plaintiff to show that the defendant's conduct fell within that rule and if that could not be shown the defendant ought not to be precluded from applying for the dismissal of the plaintiff's claim for want of prosecution.

The Court of Appeal so held when dismissing an appeal by William Alexander Armstrong against the dismissal by Mr Justice Macpherson on October 2, 1990 of his appeal from the order of Master Warren made on July 9, 1990 to allow the application by Glofield Properties Ltd

dismissing Mr Armstrong's personal injury claim against them for want of prosecution.

Mr Lawrence Caim for Mr Armstrong; Mr Stephen Archer for Glofield Properties.

LORD JUSTICE RALPH GIBSON said that he shared the surprise of Lord Justice Russell in *Reynolds v British Leyland Ltd* ([1991] 1 WLR 875) at the Court of Appeal decision in *County & District Properties Ltd v Lyell* ([1991] 1 WLR 683) that conduct by the defendant inducing a belief that the action would be allowed to continue without objection, upon which a plaintiff acted to his detriment by the expenditure of money, was a case of estoppel which precluded the defendant from applying to dismiss the action for want of prosecution.

The grounds of decision in *Lyell* had to be legally followed but for the defendant's conduct to fall within its rule, the plaintiff had to establish that such conduct did so fall.

Lord Justice Balcombe agreed. Solicitors: Ronald Fletcher Baker & Co, Stoke Newington; L Watmore & Co.

Court of Appeal

Aggravating damages

Marks v Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police
Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Leggatt and Sir George Waller
[Judgment November 27]

A chief constable's conduct in persisting denial of liability in defence of a civil action brought against him, notwithstanding the comments which had been made by a magistrate in proceedings against the plaintiff as to conflicting police witness evidence that could not be relied upon, was arguably capable of aggravating the plaintiff's damages, should she have made out her case and could even be relevant to her claim for exemplary damages.

The Court of Appeal so held when refusing leave to appeal by the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police against the decision of Mr Justice Hodgson on November 25, 1991 that the issues of liability and damages in the claim brought by Elizabeth Jane Marks should be tried together. An order was made preventing publication of this report until after the trial.

Mr Eric Shannon for the chief constable; Mr Benedict Emerson for Miss Marks.

LORD JUSTICE LEGGATT said that Miss Marks had been convicted by magistrates of

obstructing a police officer in the execution of his duty but that her appeal against conviction and sentence had been allowed by Judge Prest, QC, the Recorder of Manchester, who, in the course of giving his judgment, had commented that police witness evidence was contradictory and could not be relied upon.

In the civil proceedings brought by Miss Marks against the chief constable, Mr Justice Hodgson had concluded that a clear line of demarcation between the issues of liability and quantum could not be drawn and that the correct course of action was to try both issues at the same time.

An order to separate trials of the issues of liability and damages, by way of exception to the general rule, was only to be made in exceptional cases.

Although it was only an application for leave to appeal, the Court of Appeal, in entertaining full argument from counsel, had to accept responsibility for taking course back to what seemed to be the basic issue in the case, namely, whether reference to the recorder's judgment could be admissible in relation to the issue of damages in the trial before the jury.

It was well arguable that the chief constable's conduct in persisting in the defence of the action, notwithstanding the recorder's comments, was capable of aggravating Miss Marks'

damages and could even be relevant to her claim for exemplary damages.

If admitted on either footing, it would call, as Mr Justice Hodgson had appreciated in the ruling that he gave, for a clear direction by him distinguishing between the issues of liability and damages.

As to cross-examination of the police witnesses, there could be some technical difficulties in formulating questions in a way that was not unfair to witnesses of whom such questions were asked because in the circumstances of the appeal to the court they could not go so far as to impugn dishonesty to the police officers, but such cross-examination about the recorder's remarks could be relevant to cross-examination.

It was, however, not for the Court of Appeal to rule on such matters which were best left to the discretion of the very experienced judge who would have the conduct of the trial.

There was no basis for concluding that there should be separate trials of the issues of liability and quantum and the exercise of discretion by Mr Justice Hodgson was not merely unacceptable but was plainly correct.

Lord Justice Neill and Sir George Waller agreed. Solicitors: Mr Roger C. Rees, Safford; Rhys Vaughan, Manchester.

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The variety of career opportunities for trained people is shown by the employment success rate of this year's BSc Agriculture graduates at Harper Adams College in Shropshire. All 38 graduates have gone straight into jobs, except for three going on to further study and two who decided to travel.

The range of these occupations may surprise those who equate agricultural science with a hands-on farming career. Half of the graduates have gone into trainee farm management or are helping on the home farm, and others have joined the Agricultural Development and Advisory Service, an agro-chemicals

Farming studies prepare you for a varied career, Derek Morgan says

company, an animal feeds manufacturer, the Milk Marketing Board, British Sugar, the Midland Bank or a big accountancy firm.

Richard Jopling, the schools and colleges liaison officer at Harper Adams, says: "People need to think about the food and land industry as a whole rather than concentrating solely on production agriculture. 'Crops need to be sold, processed, distributed to the supermarket. Many students now go into the marketing, transport and retail side of the business'."

One in three students at Harper Adams enrolls on a BSc degree course in agri-food marketing or on a Higher National Diploma (HND) in agricultural marketing and business administration.

Dr Charles Wright, a lecturer in horticulture at Nottingham University, believes today's farmers need to be more scientific. He says: "We teach not only farming techniques but also the scientific principles underlying farming, such as the physiology of plant growth."

Nottingham's faculty of agricultural and food sciences offers a four-year BSc in agriculture with European studies. Undergraduates learn a language and spend a half-year at a Continental university. If it is in a European Community country, they may qualify for an Erasmus sponsorship (the European Community Action Scheme for the Mobility of University Students).

Two such students are Andrew Smith, who researched micro-propagation techniques in horticulture at the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University in Copenhagen, and James Green, who visited Göttingen University in Germany.

Mr Smith hopes to work on the marketing side in the horticultural industry or as a buyer, a career he believes presents opportunities for international travel. Mr Green is interested in an accountancy career so that he can combine his practical and scientific farming knowledge with financial expertise.

Harper Adams runs residential courses in agriculture,

marketing, land management and surveying, and agricultural engineering.

Information technology is a feature of all courses, involving computer design projects, spreadsheets on a farm budgeting exercise and a milk yields database. Mr Jopling says: "The really successful farmer today needs to be good at business."

All Harper Adams courses incorporate a green element. HND agriculture students can choose modules in organic farming, conservation, and farm waste control.

Salaries for assistant farm managers range from £9,500 to £11,500, possibly with accommodation. Sales and marketing jobs pay between £12,000 and £14,000, plus a car. Research posts with an advisory body might start at £11,000.

Further information: Harper Adams Agricultural College, Newport, Shropshire TF10 8NB; Nottingham University faculty of agricultural and food sciences, Sutton Bonington, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE12 5RD. A new HND in agriculture (organic) is offered by Sheffield City Polytechnic in conjunction with Derbyshire College of Agriculture and Horticulture.



Pig and choose: James White has a degree and works as a trainee farm manager

PROFILE

Harvest time for the BSc

JAMES WHITE has a BSc honours degree in agricultural food marketing and business studies and is now working on his family's farm in Northamptonshire. It is a mixed farm of 480 acres with arable and livestock.

He works as a trainee farm manager on a salary, helping in a practical and supervisory role mainly on the arable side. Information technology skills learnt at college have helped him to apply greater use of micro-computers. The farm micro now has software for a livestock database, payroll, cashflow and profit and loss accounts. Mr White, who is 23, runs a software package called Field Manager to input arable data on sowing, spraying and yields and provide near-instant feedback on profit margins so that plans can be updated for the following year. He has also produced a tailor-made program for the farm's budget. Academic study of plant growth has, he says, made him "see the importance of timing when applying fertiliser and pesticides to create optimum yield". The business component of his course has sharpened his understanding of the financial implications. "I am more aware of how, when and where the farm makes profit," he says.

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N. London Based

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+ Car + Benefits

Our client, is an 'Insurance & Financial' Specialist Division of a Major International Industrial & Commercial Corp.

A Solicitor/Barrister either Newly Qualified or with up to 2 years PQE is URGENTLY needed to join their young, Legal team.

Duties will include drafting of Individual Legal Docs., Support to In House Marketing Division, Negotiations with Lawyers, Clients, Agents etc. within the Banking, Financial, Retail & Related sectors.

Contact John Pratt 071 436 5570, in confidence, for application details. Criterion Appointments (Legal Division). International Recruitment Specialists.

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

EASTMAN DENTAL HOSPITAL

DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND FUNDRAISING

c. £25,000 - £28,000

This prestigious teaching hospital and its associated postgraduate Institute (University of London) seek a self motivated, innovative person to undertake a new exciting role.

The two main functions of the post are: i) to define and implement marketing and PR strategies for the organisation; ii) to develop and implement existing plans for fundraising and income generation through the Eastman Research Foundations.

Applicants must be mature and able to demonstrate a number of years experience in a field relevant to the role.

The position is available for a two year period in the first instance. Applications are welcomed from those interested in job sharing.

Application form and job description are available by contacting the Personnel Department, Eastman Dental Hospital, 256 Grays Inn Road, London WC1X 8LD. Telephone 071 915 1096.

Closing date for receipt of applications: 17th February 1992.



RADIO LOLLIPOP

FINANCIAL CONTROLLER

for Children in Hospital to £20,000 Surrey

The major charity for children in hospital, with stations throughout Britain and, now, overseas, has an opening for a bright, enthusiastic, part qualified accountant to manage all aspects of the organisation's financial function.

The candidate should have a minimum of two years experience at a similar level in a small, busy environment and sound hands-on knowledge of both manual and computerised accounting systems.

Excellent communication skills, high energy levels and dedication are essential attributes for this challenging role which goes beyond the financial sphere.

Please send a curriculum vitae to our advising consultant: Sue Sharkey, Baker Tilly Management Consultants, 2 Bloomsbury Street, London WC1B 3ST.



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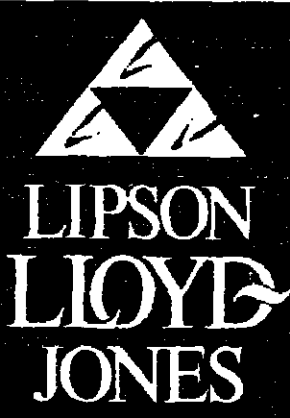
Amerada Hess is a major independent oil and gas exploration and production company. In addition to operating a number of fields in the North Sea, the Company is currently developing the Scott field, which will be the largest field to come on stream during the 1990s.

The Company now wishes to recruit a commercial Legal Adviser with 1-2 years' high quality commercial experience, preferably gained within the oil industry. The Legal Department, which currently comprises five Legal Advisers, has a pro-active approach and plays a major commercial role in the Company's exploration and production activities.

The successful candidate will handle a complex and varied caseload of exploration and production matters and must be able to demonstrate a strong commercial approach allied to well developed negotiating and drafting skills. The ability to communicate effectively is also essential as the role will necessitate extensive liaison with all levels of staff and management.

In return for commitment and expertise, Amerada Hess can offer an excellent salary, and a benefits package that includes free private medical insurance, up to 25 days holiday, non-contributory pension scheme and a generous employee share scheme.

In the first instance please send your full Curriculum Vitae to Simon Lipson, a Solicitor, at Lipson Lloyd-Jones.



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071-600 1690

24 HOURS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

ITV

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 TV-am (8270954)
- 9.25 Koolhaas, Wim. Quiz game hosted by Alistair Dineley (8047849)
- 9.55 Regional News (8612374)
- 10.00 The Time... The Place... topical discussion series, presented by John Stapleton (5766138)
- 10.40 This Morning. Family magazine series. Today's edition includes legal and financial advice and Kevin Woodall's demonstration of how students can create cheap and delicious meals (3843383)
- 12.10 Treasure Box. Early learning series (8238190)
- 12.30 News with John Suchet (Oracle) Weather (5803206)
- 1.10 Regional News (39440206)
- 1.20 Home And Away. Australian family drama series (Oracle) (51865119) 1.50 A Country Practice. Medical drama series set in an Australian outback town (s) (60345333)
- 2.20 What a Difference. Series in which people trade places for a day with their European counterparts. Today Tricia Laidl from Liverpool leaves behind her young son and baby daughter and travels to Dublin to sample the lifestyle of Blonise O'Connor (76380585)
- 2.50 Families. Diane and Anton return from their honeymoon (s) (5503139)
- 3.15 ITN News headlines (4475428) 3.20 Thames News headlines (4460411)
- 3.25 The Young Doctors. Medical serial from Australia. Mike and Marie go forward with their wedding plans despite Melanie's disapproval (3734480)
- 3.55 Josie Smith. Children's drama (8064190) 4.05 Disney's Duck Tales. Cartoon (4430022) 4.30 Cartoon with Daffy Duck (r) (3527913) 4.40 Press Gang. A kind of Junior Lou Grant, this superior children's series continues to entertain. Today Colin completes a big business deal (s) (Oracle) (5322222)
- 5.10 Blockbusters. General knowledge (805054)
- 5.40 News with Fiona Armstrong (Oracle) Weather (165119)
- 5.55 Thames Help with Jackie Spradley (r) (497596)
- 6.00 Home And Away (r) (Oracle) (789)
- 6.30 Regional News Magazine (Oracle) (751)
- 7.00 Emmerdale. Farming soap. An anniversary party is afoot. With Clive Hornby, Madeleine Howard (Oracle) (5408)
- 7.30 The Bill. Crime drama. A series of top documentaries about the Falklands war. The people of Stanley recall the frightening 74 days in which the island's only town was occupied by the Argentinians (Oracle) (635)
- 8.00 The Bill. Joyriders are responsible for a hit-and-run incident in today's episode of the quality police drama (Oracle) (4157)
- 8.30 The Upper Hand. Limp comedy series about a meat heister, a former boss, Willa McGee, a doctor, Diane Weston and Honor Blackman. Caroline asks Charlie's advice after her accountant asks her to marry him (6664)

6.00 **Channel 4 Daily** (6278596) 9.25 **Schools** (843494) 9.25
12.00 **The Parkview Programme**, Presented by Nick Owen (95952)
2.00 **Business Daily** (22365)
1.00 **Sesame Street**, Early learning series for the under-fives (10190)
2.00 **Film: The Weaver Set** (1948, b/w) Nostalgic period piece about a middle-class English family during the latter years of the second world war and in the immediate post-war period. With Ursula Jeans, Cecil Parker and Joan Hopkins. Directed by Roy Baker (690003)
9.30 **Triangle**, Canadian abstract animation (6281480)
3.45 **Third Wave** with Mavis Nicholson, today tackling the issue of euthanasia with a look the situation in The Netherlands where people can choose to die (Teletext) (2640190)
4.30 **Countdown**, Words and numbers game presented by Richard Whitely (a) (848)
5.00 **It's A Dog's Life**, Includes a report on Roy Dyer, creator of the annual Brentwood Working Dogs Convention (f) (8515)
5.30 **Dramascope**, *Snip*, *Deadwood*, A tense play; a fridic himself becoming strangely jealous of his brother in a wheelchair (Teletext) (429)
6.00 **My Two Dads**, American comedy. Joey finds the girl of his dreams (f) (111)
6.30 **Gamemaster**, Video games series with guest, the chart player, Eric Bristow (333)
7.00 **Channel 4 News** with Jon Snow (Teletext) Weather (529954)
7.50 **Comment** (75878)
8.00 **Class Action**
8.00 **CHOICE**, Combining a "hard-hitting investigative approach", *CHOICE* is a new, weekly series on issues in British education from the makers of Channel 4's *Hard News* and *Black Bag*. Each programme will include three or four filmed reports and the series will also offer a forum for personal views. The first of these comes up tonight and is given by Baroness Warnock, in 1978 she chaired the enquiry into problems for children with special educational needs. Her report led to the 1981 act. This was supposed to ensure that each child; estimated to be as many as one in five, got the appropriate help. Warnock now claims that the act is being widely flouted. She develops her argument through interviews with children; parents and teachers and fears that as schools are obliged to compete with each other "problem" children will be "specially looked after" (2795)
8.30 **Nature Watch**, A look at Moscow's equivalent to David Attenborough, Nikolai Dzudov (f) (Teletext) (1205)



A volatile relationship: Charlotte's daughter Abi (9.50pm)


9.50 40 Minutes (465645)
*** CHOICE:** Charlotte is serving her third prison term for importing cocaine and Andy feels angry at being abandoned. As a piece of intimate television, getting the camera to the heart of emotions. Any Hardie's film works splendidly. The relationship is volatile. Charlotte is shocked by Andy's biker lifestyle. Andy still loves his mother and is bitter that she has never returned. The women spend much of their time shouting at each other, like characters in *EastEnders*. We can feel sympathy for Andy, less perhaps for the mother. Andy says it was greed not money that made Charlotte dead in drugs. But the matter is never explained. There are other gaps. Who and where is Andy's father? A glancing reference to a house in Brazil raises further speculation about the women's past history. The film often does manage to provide the rest to enlighten.

10.30 Newsline (457157) with Sue Cameron
11.15 The Late Show (276684): Arts magazine (a)
11.25 Behind the Headlines: Repeat of this afternoon's programme (7) (804866)

12.25am Weather (6695900) Ends at 12.35

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

The numbers now appearing next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode® numbers, which allow you to instantly programme the video recorder with the programme you wish to watch. The numbers are listed in the Video PlusCode® for the programme you wish to record. For more details, call the Video PlusCode on 0899 121204 (calls charged at 48p per minute peak, 35p off-peak) or write to Video PlusCode, PO Box 100, London W6A 1VQ. Videophone (+44) PlusCode on 121204 and Video Programme are trademarks of Gannett Marketing Ltd.



Shaken not stirred: barman Tom Cruise mixes it (9.00pm)

9.00 *Film: Cocktail* (1988) Ever the method actor, Tom Cruise diligently learned to shake it all about for his role as the best bartender in town in this romantic drama about the perils of succumbing to a lifestyle of easy money. With Bryan Brown and Elisabeth Shue, Roger Donaldson directed. This is the film's first showing on network television (Oracle) (2406)

10.00 *News at Ten* with Trevor McDonald and Alastair Stewart (Oracle Weather) (15795) 10.30 *Regional News and weather* (550667)

10.40 *Film: Cocktail* contd. (Oracle) (259383)

11.35 *Prisoner: Cell Block H. Behind bars drama* (560596)

12.30am *Video View. Round-up of the latest releases, including *Thelma & Louise (36639)**

1.30 *Shady Tales. Another short story starring Adam Faith. Shady gets on the trail of the phantom footballer (r) (1689207)*

1.40 *The Equalizer with Edward Woodward. Control is accused of treason* (1228146)

2.30 *Donahue. Phil Donahue meets divorced couples who have learned to live each other again* (82387)

3.30 *60 Minutes. American news magazine* (81504)

4.30 *Entertainment UK. The latest in film, music, theatre and dance* (48455)

5.30 *TM Morning News* (79252). Ends at 6.00

2.30gm Ch

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SATELLITE

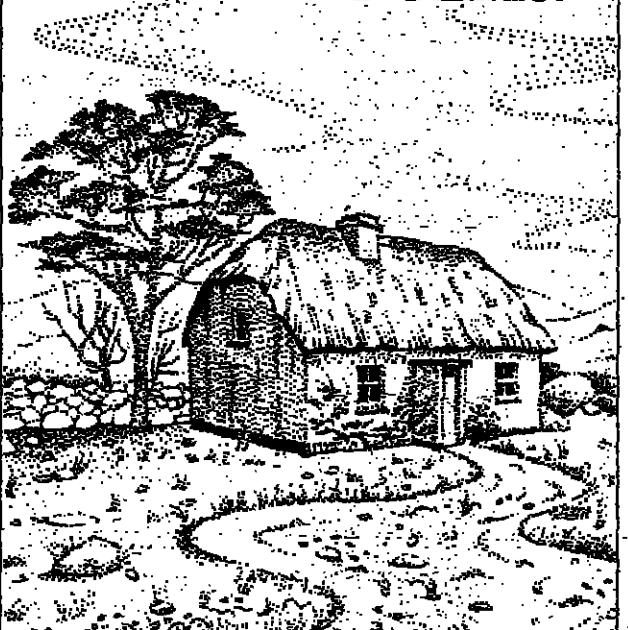
[illegible]**RADIO 3**

RADIO 4


(s) Stereo on FM
 5.55am Shipping Forecast 6.00
 am News (LW only) 6.30
 Weather 6.30 Farming Today
 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30
 Today, and 6.30, 7.00, 7.30,
 8.00, 8.30 News 6.55, 7.55
 Weather 7.25, 8.25 Sport 8.40
 Yesterday in Parliament 8.50
 News (LW only)
 9.05 Call Nick Ross: 071-580 4411.
 Lines open from 6am
 10.00-11.00 The Big Game West
 (FM only)
 (s) CHOICE Having said a
 word about the new
 recorder, horse, and keen
 sense of fun and irony can say
 during a Radio 4 ride along
 the Welsh's five the new
 Dylan Wintler now crosses the
 Atlantic. Arnie armed with
 cordery, humour and
 irony, but this time with two
 horses, he sets off in John
 Wayne's footsteps down the
 Oregon trail. The book is a
 topological chronicle of
 whose company it is
 impossible to be, even
 into 2,000 long miles
 stretch ahead of him
 for the next nine Tuesdays
 and 0.15 Daily Service (LW only)
 0.15 The Bible (LW only) Psalms
 0.17 Read by Hannah
 Gordon
 0.30 Woman's Hour: Jenni Murray
 meets the windsurfer Penny
 May and 1.00 News
 1.30 Medicine Now, with Geoff
 Watts
 2.00 News: And You, with
 John News
 2.25pm Screenplay: Jan Johnstone
 hosts the celebrity movie quiz
 (s) 12.55 Weather
 1.40 The World at One, with James
 Aronson
 1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55 Shipping
 News. Thirty-minute Theatre.
 Out of School, by Diana
 Maclure. The tension and
 prejudice simmering in a
 school is brought to the boil
 by the arrival of a new boy (s)
 2.30-2.45 The Sound of Music
 Notes with clannetists
 Michael Collins and Anthony
 Pay (s)
 2.45-3.00 Vaughanpads (FM only). The
 Sheep: Side of the Snowdint.
 Vaughanpads's voyage of
 self-discovery (s)
 3.47-4.00 Seven about Seven (FM
 only): Libby Purves explores
 the number seven (s) (r)
 3.00 News: Prime Minister's
 Questions (LW only)
 4.00 News
 4.05 Telescope talks to Emily
 Pragat about her novel *Eve's
 Tailor*; enters the dream
 world of Jane Gilford through
 her exhibition of paintings
 Manchester; reports on Leap
 92, Merseyside's dance
 festival; and reviews *Stephen
 MacKinnon's* biography of The
 Loves of Eliza Troler (s)
 4.45 Ship News: a report by Simon
 Kerner. Read by Roger Allen
 5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast
 5.55 Weather
 6.00-6.05 Clock News
 6.30 Radio Cars: A Moving Target
 Comedy series set in the
 offices of a London car firm
 (first part) (s) (r)
 7.00 News
 7.05 The Archers
 7.20-8.00 Film on 4 (FM only)
 7.30-7.45 The Hour (LW only) (r)
 8.00 Science Now. Alan Lewis
 reports on the experiences of
 students on a science summer
 course in Iceland (s)
 8.30 Never the Same Again: The
 story of a couple who lost
 their home after the failure
 of the small business they
 made even worse for the wife
 by her husband's failure to
 warn her of the building
 society's impending
 repossession (s) (r)
 9.00 In Touch: Peter White presents
 the magazine for the visually
 handicapped
 9.40 News: The Archers (r)
 9.45 The Financial World Tonight,
 with Nigel Cassells (s) 9.59
 Weather
 10.00 The Tonight Show,
 with Alexander MacLeod (s)
 10.45 A Book at Bedtime: The
 South, by Colin Tobin.
 Margaret O'Brien reads the
 fifth of eight chapters
 11.00 And Now, in Colour
 Astronaut Training: Fourth of
 a series of comedy series with
 Tim Firth. Tim the Juggler
 Michael Rutter and William
 Vandyck (s) (r)
 11.30-11.45 The Parliament
 12.20-12.45am News, and 12.27
 Weather 12.33 Shipping
 World Service (LW only)

RADIO 4[illegible]

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